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OT WIN FOR FLAMES

Matt Stajan shoots the puck past Antti Raanta of the Chicago Blackhawks during their game in Calgary on Tuesday. The Flames won 5-4 in overtime. Story, page 24. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Keating floats plebiscite to speed SE LRT

Make drivers pay? Fees on auto registration, licensing and insurance have funded transit elsewhere

ROBSON FLETCHER
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A plebiscite on a range of "innovative" fees contained in a new report could turn the dream of southeast LRT into reality years sooner, says Coun. Shane Keating.

The report, due up at a special council meeting Friday, outlines 27 different "revenue tools," many of which have been employed — or attempted — in other jurisdictions in order to cover the high costs of building transit infrastructure.

Examples include toll roads, car-rental levies, a municipal gas tax, surcharges on vehicle registrations, and even Internet-based crowdfunding.

Keating, who spearheaded a controversial move last fall to devote $520 million of provincial "tax room" over 10 years to the Green Line — a proposed rapid-transit route running from north-central to southeast Calgary — said he would only support the roads and car-related fees if Calgarians did too in a plebiscite.

He said his preferred option remains finding provincial and federal funding to at least match the city's $520 million, followed by the use of a community revitalization levy in areas along the proposed line, but the other options present an opportunity to fast-track the construction of southeast transit.

"We could go straight to an LRT," Keating said, if enough revenue methods were incorporated.

Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra said "user-pay concepts" in the general transportation system need to be examined and he's not opposed, in principle, to many of the items in the report.

"We need to explore a variety of funding mechanisms," he said. "Its not going be either-or, it's going to be yes-and."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said many of the ideas in the report remain "theoretical" and he's not leaning toward any in particular at the moment, but not ruling any out, either.

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Westgate School

CBE goes back to drawing board to solve space crunch

Calgary's public school board put the brakes on a decision Tuesday to ship west-side Spanish bilingual students to a new school this fall, a move that would double busing times for some.

But Calgary Board of Education area director Calvin Davies said moving half of the student population from the packed Westgate School 14 kilometres away to the vacant Eugene Coste School is still being considered along with other possibilities, like capping intake for both Westgate's Spanish and French programs and reconfiguring grades in the area.

Davies conceded parents were not made aware of the Coste scenario during years of consultation on the matter. He added, however, the Coste option was pursued because it allowed both bilingual programs to grow separately, something parents had expressed support for in the past.

"It's something that wasn't withheld purposely," Davies said.

Anger over the move prompted dozens of parents and students to rally at the CBE's downtown headquarters earlier this month.

Westgate mother Susannah Thomsen commended the board for taking a step back and re-evaluating what she called "an error in judgment." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Home searched after animal killings: Sources

Ongoing investigation. New details expected in disturbing case of slain dog, kitten Wednesday

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Investigators with the Calgary Humane Society executed a search warrant on a city home Friday in relation to a disturbing case that saw both a husky and kitten found dead in a southeast alleyway with their mouths taped shut.

Multiple sources informed Metro of the search, but it was unclear whether there had been a big break in the case that has prompted thousands to speak out in favour of stiffer penalties for people who abuse animals.

The humane society declined to discuss specifics of the ongoing investigation on Tuesday, but spokesperson Christy Thompson said an update on the investigation would be provided Wednesday. So far the organization has only said it hadn't yet "zeroed in on a suspect."

Word of the search spurred optimism among animal advocates who have been organizing rallies and donating toward a cash reward, which was established to get information leading to a conviction.

This alley in Calgary's Willow Park neighbourhood was where the bodies of both a husky and kitten were found with their mouths taped shut earlier this month. New developments in the investigation are expected to be released Wednesday. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Keep up to date online

- For updates on the animal-killings case on Wednesday, check back at metronews.ca. You can also follow our reporter @Metro_Nolais on Twitter.
- A reward launched by local group Vets To Go for information leading to a conviction in the case has been capped at $20,000, and another $50,000 in donated funds will be put toward other abuse prevention efforts, including assisting the launch of a national animal-abuser registry.

"The biggest fear is that this person will move onto children next," said Shalane Pryce, co-organizer of a rally over the weekend that saw hundreds turn up in Nose Hill Park to demand harsher penalties for animal abuse and neglect.

"People want this person locked up for quite sometime."

The dead husky was found first on Jan. 9 in an alley on the 200 block of 99 Avenue SE. One week later — the same day the humane society went public with calls for tips to aid its investigation — a dead kitten was found in the same alley just 10 metres from where the husky had been.

Humane-society investigators have said the husky died of starvation and both animals suffered fracture wounds, some of which were relatively new while others appeared to have healed over time.

A candlelight vigil was also held previously at Sue Higgins dog park in memory of the dead animals, and Alberta solicitor general Jonathan Denis has pledged support for a circulating petition that calls for stiffer penalties.

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Couple has 2 vehicles stolen

Deja vu. Pair of students struggle to make ends meet

JEREMY NOLAIS
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It was devastating enough for Caleb Cottier when thieves stole his truck from right out front of his Varsity-area home.

Then, weeks later, it happened again. Only this time, it was girlfriend Crystal Robinson's Saturn.

"They were parked in the exact same spot," she said Tuesday. "It was unbelievable. You'd figure it was the safest place in the city to park because lighting doesn't strike the same place twice."

The pair live on a fixed income as both are mature students in their 30s attending Ambrose University College.

Cottier's Ford F-250 truck went missing right as he was studying for final exams. It eventually turned up but had suffered severe structural damage and the interior was covered in cigarette burns. Insurers wrote the vehicle off but Cottier also lost valuable tools he'd left in the truck.

Robinson's car remains unaccounted for, along with up to $600 in textbooks and a car seat she frequently uses while caring for her niece. She hopes to at least recover the books.

"They're not even useful to anybody," she said. "I just thought it was so malicious. If you'd looked in the car you would have realized it was obviously owned by a woman who doesn't have a lot of money. It's a cheap car owned by a person who obviously cares for a child and goes to school. You just have to be a rotten person to do something like that."

Police confirmed Tuesday receiving reports of the thefts. Ford trucks like Cottier's continued to be the most popular targets for vehicle thefts in Calgary in 2013, with a total of 740 reported stolen last year. Cottier said police have said little about any progress made in their investigation.

"It's very difficult to juggle the responsibilities of life, work and full-time studies," he said. "Then, to have the vehicle and the way you make a living stolen, (it) has been very hard to continue to survive."

Lend support

- Caleb Cottier's red 2009 Ford F-250 truck was stolen Nov. 28 from out front of his home in the 4600 block of Verona Drive NW, while Crystal Robinson's black 2011 Saturn SC1 was stolen from the same spot on Jan. 17.
- To lend support to Caleb Cottier or Crystal Robinson, you can email robinson.crystal@gmail.com.
- Crime tips can be provided to police by calling 403-266-1234 or by contacting Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

Crystal Robinson stands in the exact spot along Verona Drive NW where both her boyfriend's truck and her car were stolen. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

City aims to build 2 to 4 new skate parks in 2014

Rob Price of the Calgary Association of Skateboarding Enthusiasts has worked with the city and an independent firm for many years to hash out the current plan to build more facilities for four-wheeled athletes. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Calgary's kick-flip crowd looks to land a handful of new skateboard parks this year.

The city rolled out a dozen potential locations at an open house Tuesday night in the first phase of a 10-year blueprint. Between two and four could be built this year and a total of 25 to 50 could be put up by the end of the plan, as per city officials. It's a "dream come true" for avid skater Rob Price who has long advocated for more facilities.

"We're the outsiders, the rebels, the punk rockers — we're not used to this kind of acceptance," said Price of the Calgary Association of Skateboarding Enthusiasts.

The city has pitched three park sizes ranging from that of a tennis court to a hockey rink to a little league baseball field and carrying price tags ranging from $200,000 to $500,000.

Proposed locales

New skate parks are proposed in: Applewood, Bowness, Chinook Park, Deer Run, Edgemont, Huntington Hills, Midnapore, New Brighton, Southwood and Quarry Park.

Midnapore residents Rick Chopper and Christie Springs told Metro they were "spooked" by the plan and raised concerns over crime, a lack of amenities in the area such as washrooms, and the safety of young riders.

They argued the park should be built closer to an established recreation centre.

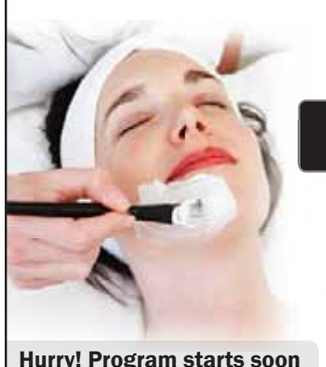
"We're not judging the participants," Springs said. "We're concerned about the site choice."

City superintendent of sport development Greg Dycke noted skate parks, like outdoor hockey rinks, are community gathering places that could support some of the estimated 35,000 skateboarders in Calgary. Still, he understood the concerns.

"We recognize the stigma," he said. "We want to give people an opportunity to voice their concerns — and also provide education."

To that end, two more open houses are planned this week at the Edgemont Community Association (Wednesday) and the Southland Leisure Centre (Thursday).

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO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Foster deaths. Alberta panel hears review system splintered, uncoordinated

Alberta's chief medical examiner says the system is too splintered and disconnected when it comes to determining why and how children die in government care.

Dr. Anny Sauvageau told a meeting on foster care that the province needs to create a specific committee of experts with the authority and resources to examine all child deaths.

She also says her office needs a broader mandate to examine not only the manner of death, but to propose ways to prevent similar tragedies.

She says while current fatality review hearings are held to make recommendations to prevent deaths of children in care, no one in government is tasked with checking to see if the recommendations are ever acted on.

Sauvageau is one of several experts and policymakers attending a two-day conference to determine how to publicly report more information on children who die in government care. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Covering the cover-ups

The meeting is the result of a series of PostMedia stories late last year that found the province covered up the deaths of 89 children in care since 1999.

Court. Judge issues stay on legislation that would impose contract on union

An Alberta judge has issued a temporary stay on legislation that would impose a contract on 22,000 government workers at the end of the month if a negotiated deal isn't reached.

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees is challenging the Public Service Salary Restraint Act in Court of Queen's Bench.

A union official says the judge has put the legislation on hold until Feb. 14 at noon to give him time to consider all the arguments presented in the case.

The union contends the law that was passed quickly just last month amounts to unfair bargaining and breaches the union's charter rights. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salary restraint law

- Government workers in Alberta have not had the legal right to strike since 1977, but until last month had the right to send contract disputes to binding arbitration.
- The salary restraint law would impose a four-year contract with frozen wages in the first two years, followed by one per cent hikes in each of the following two.

Calgary Arts Development chair Dean Prodan said $229,000 in provincial funding announced Tuesday puts the Alberta Arts Flood Rebuild effort above its $500,000 goal. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

New flood-relief funds announced

Apply now. Application deadline for first $1 million for non-profits is Feb. 28, rest coming in next fiscal year

Alberta will dole out up to $4 million more to support flood-affected non-profit organizations and Calgary Arts Development will distribute another $229,000 to affected arts groups on the province's behalf.

Culture Minister Heather Klimchuk made the announcement Tuesday at the YWCA of Calgary's downtown headquarters, which is still undergoing repairs to flood-related damage.

"I only have to look around this room to get a sense of the devastation the flood brought," Klimchuk said, noting the disaster not only damaged non-profit agencies' infrastructure, it also resulted in increased demand for many of their services.

"It is beyond infrastructure, certainly, for us," said YWCA CEO Sue Tomney. "It's not just the building, it's the need from the community, and we've certainly seen a rise in need."

Many artists are also still reeling from the flood, said Emiko Muraki, director of impact and engagement with Calgary Arts Development (CADA), who highlighted the cancellation of most of the 2013 Sled Island music festival and the destruction of Stride Gallery's headquarters and archived materials as just some examples.

CADA has already doled out more than $200,000 in donations to support affected arts groups, and Klimchuk said it made sense to have the agency do the same with these additional provincial funds.

"They're the experts," Klimchuk said. "They're the feet on the ground, they know how to make those decisions, and I trust them totally." ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

For non-profits, arts groups

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New funding announced Tuesday for Alberta non-profit agencies and arts groups affected by the June 2013 floods.

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'A natural choice'

City CFO will fill in as city manager

Calgary's chief financial officer will fill in as interim city manager when the current top bureaucrat retires on Thursday.

City council appointed Eric Sawyer to the position late Monday. He will take over from current city manager Owen Tobert at noon on Jan 30. "As CFO, Eric Sawyer is a natural choice," Mayor Naheed Nenshi said. The city's treasurer, Beng Koay, will become acting chief financial officer. METRO

Evanston and Redstone

Charges laid in string of thefts

Police have charged two men after a series of new-home break-ins in the communities of Evanston and Redstone.

Carlos Alberto Vargas, 39, and Marco Antonio Aravena, 47, both face four counts of break-and-enter and commit theft, and one count of mischief to property under $5,000.

Anyone with more information is asked to call police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers. METRO

At large

Cops investigate alleged pedestrian rage incident

Calgary police are searching for a pedestrian who punched a driver that nearly hit him with a vehicle at a southeast intersection Tuesday morning.

Police allege the pedestrian reacted to nearly being hit by the vehicle, assaulted the driver, and then fled on foot.

Anyone with information can call Calgary police at 403-266-1234. METRO

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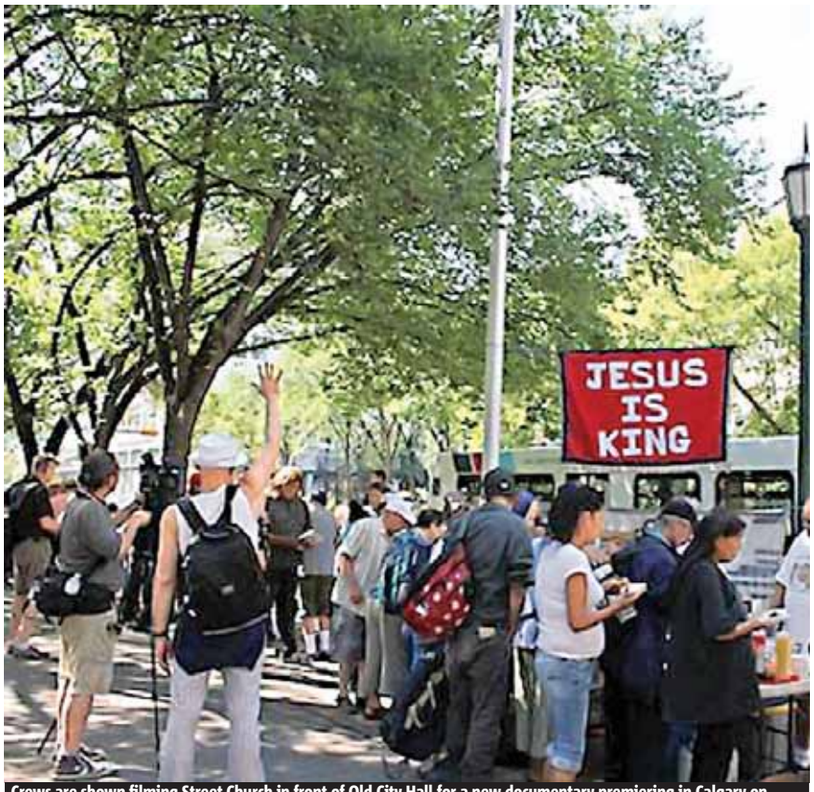

Crews are shown filming Street Church in front of Old City Hall for a new documentary premiering in Calgary on Saturday.
COURTESY STREETADVOCATE.CA

Controversial street preacher gets voice in documentary

Street Church. Film will feature the activist, arrests and testimonials

Notorious street pastor Art Pawlowski's fight for social justice has landed on the big screen.

Street Advocate opens Saturday at the Plaza Theatre, and on Tuesday, Pawlowski said the hour-long exposé adds credence to claims coming from his inner-city Christian ministry known as Street Church.

"You will see arrests, you will see abuse of power by the police and bylaw officers, you will see corporate security breaking the law right in your face," he told Metro. "You'll see testimonies of people that were impacted by the ministry."

Since 2005, Pawlowski has been ministering in the downtown core and feeding a needy flock in front of Old City Hall. He's long been at odds with the city over his use of a voice amplifier, among other grievances.

Pawlowski claims he's never been criminally convicted despite 10 arrests, more than roughly 200 citations and 80 court appearances.

"If I'm such a terrible lawbreaker (then) why am I free?"

Politicians, lawyers and media types are reported to be among those attending Street Advocate's premiere at the Kensington-area theatre.

Calgary MLA Ric McIver has promoted the opening night show online and has openly backed Pawlowski, whom he refers to as a friend.

McIver couldn't be reached for comment, but he's seen questioning the controversy around Street Church in a YouTube video.

"It seems to me he's getting picked on," he told the filmmaker. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

In detail

Director Tomasz Wiszniewski and his crew spent almost two weeks in Calgary filming the daily activities of Street Church and their volunteers.

- Roughly half the film was taped in Calgary with other scenes in Lake Louise, Maskwacis (Hobbema) and a small portion in Poland.
- More information including photos, videos and links can be found at metronews.ca.

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- Must be highly skilled at multi-tasking, prioritizing workload efficiently, and tracking ad material.
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- 3+ years design experience within a media environment

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resumé and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than Jan. 31, 2014.

PLEASE QUOTE: "Graphic Designer - Calgary" in the subject line.
All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

Feb. 3-7. Mayor to visit London for leaders forum

Mayor Naheed Nenshi plans to travel to London next week on the British consulate's dime after accepting an invitation to take part in the Foreign Commonwealth Office's International Leaders Programme.

"It's a real great honour that the British foreign secretary had determined that a little guy like me from Calgary ought to be part of this program, and I'm happy to do it," Nenshi said Tuesday of the Feb. 3-7 trip.

The consulate describes the event as one that "brings together key partners of the U.K. to engage with some of the best and brightest people from around the world."

Calgary and London increasingly share similar opportunities and challenges, according to Tony Kay, the British consul general in Calgary, who said including the city and its mayor in the program was a "no-brainer." METRO

Multi-purpose trip

Nenshi said he's interested in learning more about London's aging transit infrastructure and its cycle-track network, but the trip is also largely about profile-building for Calgary.

Via Facebook

Man charged in alleged luring

Police say a Calgary man used the online alias "Sam Pat" while baiting a young girl into a secret sexual relationship.

Several sex-related charges were announced Tuesday in a case that dates back to August 2013. It's alleged Satinderjit Mangat befriended a 14-year-old girl on Facebook.

Anyone who may have been victimized by or has information concerning Mangat or "Sam Pat" is urged to call Const. Heather Bangle at 403-428-4908. METRO

V-Day speed-dating event goes for Guinness record

Relationship roulette. Why settle for one date on Feb. 14 when you could have 20?

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Cupid better bring plenty of arrows.

Calgary Speed Dating is hoping to set a Guinness World Record for the largest event of its kind. The plan is to cram 600 bachelors and bachelorettes into Telus Spark on Valentine's Day.

"I don't want to just break it — I want to blast it," said company founder and owner Cathy Brewer of the current record, which was set in November in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City. A total of 484 relationship-seekers turned up for that outing.

The rules for Calgary's ambitious attempt are rigid. Men and women will sit across from each other, knee-to-knee, for three-minute mini-dates. Stewards will be assigned to keep a watchful eye and assure everyone is participating — 20 dates per attendee is the minimum Guinness requirement.

"If someone has to get up and get a drink or go to the washroom, we have to stop everything and wait for them to return," Brewer said.

At the end of 90 minutes, Brewer hopes the event will not only go into the record books, but also lead to a few matches. The Feb. 14 outing marks Calgary Speed Dating's 500th event, and she's aware of a few couples who've walked down the wedding aisle after meeting in a mini-date.

"It's a great way to bring singles together," Brewer said. "It's much more honest. With Internet dating, people lie all the time.

"This way, you're meeting people in person and there's a spark or there's not — that's the bottom line."

Cathy Brewer, owner of Calgary Speed Dating, hopes hundreds will turn up on Valentine's Day at Telus Spark in search of both love and a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Got that lovin' feeling

- It costs $35 to register for Calgary Speed Dating's world-record attempt and includes free food and a dance after the mini-dating.
- As of midday Tuesday, 300 people had already signed on to take part.
- For more information, visit calgaryspeeddating.com.

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Canada ready for a fight with U.S. in food dispute

Labelling. Agriculture minister makes last-ditch attempt to make American lawmakers change rules, says he'll return case to WTO

Canada's agriculture minister says he's hoping to avoid an all-out trade war with the U.S over food labelling. But Gerry Ritz warns that, if there is a war, he's prepared to fight it.

Ritz has launched a last-minute appeal to American lawmakers to change U.S. food labelling rules through a farm bill that could come to a first vote as early as Wednesday.

"I'm hoping that cooler minds will prevail, that the pressure that the American industry is bringing to bear in the next day or two will cause some legislators to step back," said Ritz.

Canada has long complained that the so-called Country of Origin Labelling provisions adopted by the U.S. government in 2008 hurt meat industries on both sides of the border.

Hopes for a settlement of the dispute were dashed Monday when U.S. lawmakers reached a deal that did not include changes to the labelling requirements.

Failing any last-minute amendments, Ritz says Canada will return the dispute to the World Trade Organization, with arguments in the case expected to begin Feb. 18.

"That's a good thing," said Ritz. "It starts to move it ahead."

If the WTO rules in Canada's favour, tariffs could be imposed by early 2015 on U.S. exports of everything from beef and pork products to grains and fresh fruits.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Muslim group demands apology for 'smear'

National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) executive director Ihsaan Gardee speaks during a press conference with NGO representatives and community leaders on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday. NCCM is demanding an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his chief spokesman for a comment it says linked the organization to a terrorist group. The council had criticized the inclusion of a controversial rabbi in Harper's delegation that went to the Middle East last week. "Rather than responding to our legitimate concerns, the PMO's director of communications attacked us and attempted to smear our name by claiming NCCM had 'documented ties to a terrorist organization such as Hamas,"' Gardee said Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

L'Isle-Verte

Death toll raised in seniors' home fire

Quebec provincial police said Tuesday that 17 are confirmed dead and 15 remain missing after the blaze that ravaged Résidence du Havre in L'Isle-Verte last Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veterans Affairs

Ex-soldiers protest office closures

A group of ex-soldiers was rebuffed Tuesday by Stephen Harper, who played down the impact of impending Veterans Affairs regional office closures. Veteran Roy Lamore said the closures "will put veterans at risk." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipeline blast

The heat's back on for Manitobans

Natural gas was back again Tuesday in Manitoba communities left without heat following a pipeline explosion. TransCanada said service was restored to most overnight Monday and to the rest by Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recently released inmate Jamal Abu Muhsin shows his university degree, in the West Bank town of Tubas near Jenin, that he earned at an Israeli prison. He is among hundreds of Palestinians who spent their time in Israeli prisons pursuing an education. NASSER ISHTAYEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jailed Palestinians secretly earn degrees in Israeli prisons

Uprising leader. Marwan Barghouti earned doctorate from an Egyptian university in 2010 while serving five life terms

Jamal Abu Muhsin was a first-year Palestinian university student when he was convicted of stabbing a 76-year-old Israeli man to death in 1991, in retaliation for the killings of five Palestinian stone-throwers by Israeli soldiers.

Recently released from prison, he's now beginning a new chapter of his life thanks to a pair of university degrees — all earned behind bars.

Abu Muhsin is among hundreds of Palestinians who have spent their time in Israeli prison pursuing higher education — a program that was supported by the Israeli prison system for two decades until it was cut in 2011 as part of a series of sanctions against prisoners. Since then, prisoners have secretly organized their own courses, with backing from universities in the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinian officials say.

University degree

"When I found myself in jail for life, I was faced with two options: either I make meaning for my life or waste my life and my mind behind bars."

Jamal Abu Muhsin, 42, a Palestinian who secretly completed a university degree while serving time in Israeli prison

Uprising leader Marwan Barghouti, the most famous Palestinian prisoner, teaches a master's degree course in Israel Studies. Abu Muhsin was one of Barghouti's students.

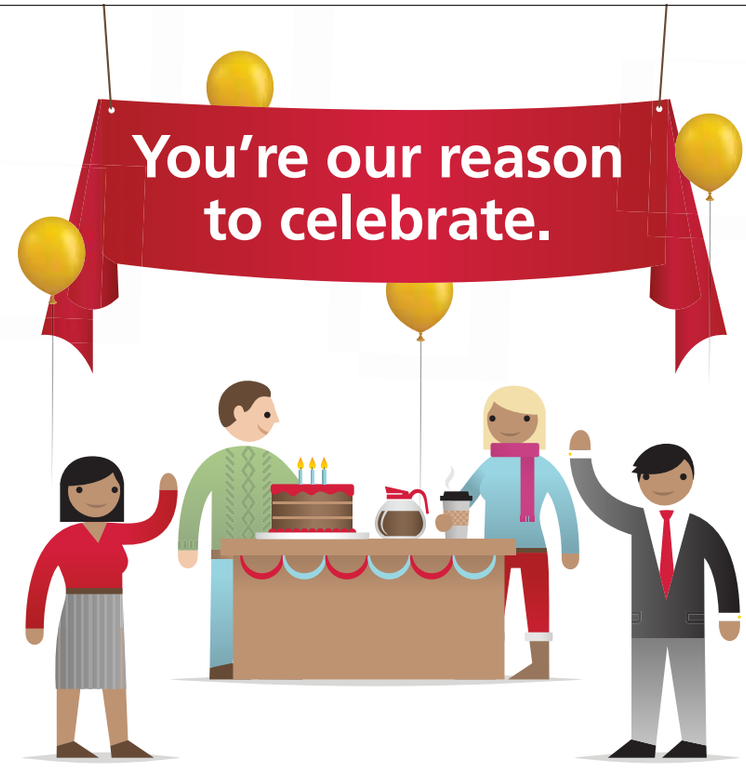
Abu Muhsin said studying helped him get through 23 years behind bars. He chose to study history, then languages and writing and finally sciences and economics before earning a bachelor's degree in political science via long-distance learning at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He later added a master's degree from the Palestinian Al-Quds University.

"I've studied materials about the Zionist movement from a Zionist perspective, but I found no discrimination against us as students. I would write papers to the university in which I would criticize the Zionist theory and they would accept my argument," he said. "I wanted to understand everything in life and to make my long life in jail meaningful. Otherwise my soul would have died."

Since Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in 1967, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been imprisoned for anti-Israeli actions, from stone-throwing to killings. Hundreds of the roughly 5,000 prisoners held by Israel today are believed to be pursuing degrees, according to prisoners' rights activist.

Abu Muhsin is among 104 of the longest-serving prisoners Israel is freeing under a U.S.-brokered package that relaunched peace talks last July.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Ukraine PM resigns; parliament overturns harsh anti-protest laws

PM-less. President offered the position to opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk, but he refused the post

In back-to-back moves aimed at defusing Ukraine's political crisis, the prime minister resigned Tuesday and parliament repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

The two developments were significant concessions to the anti-government protesters who have fought sporadically with police for the last 10 days after two months of peaceful around-the-clock demonstrations. The protests erupted after President Viktor Yanukovych decided to turn toward Russia for a bailout loan instead of signing a deal with the European Union, but have since morphed into a general plea for more human rights, less corruption and more democracy in this nation of 45 million.

The departure of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov removes one of the officials most disliked by the opposition forces whose protests have turned parts of Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, into a barricaded maze.

However, Azarov's spokesman told the Interfax news agency that deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbuzov will assume temporary leadership of the Cabinet in the meantime. Such a move is unlikely to please the opposition, as Arbuzov is widely viewed as just another staunch ally of Yanukovych.

Other key issues remain unresolved in Ukraine's political crisis, including the opposition's repeated demands for Yanukovych to resign and for a new election to be held.

Azarov's resignation came just before the opening of a special parliament session that repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

Yanukovych earlier this month had pushed through new laws to crack down on protests and raise prison sentences for creating disorder. The laws also prohibited people from wearing helmets and gas masks, which many have done for fear that riot police would try to violently disperse protests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We have repealed all the laws against which the whole country rose up."

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Ukrainian lawmaker and a key figure in the opposition

Riot police warm themselves by a bonfire near the Ukrainian parliament in Kyiv on Tuesday.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unwelcome

Canada's reaction

Senior Ukrainian officials will be barred from Canada as a response to the continuing crackdown on protests in that country, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander said Tuesday. "We will restrict entry to Canada for key Ukrainian government officials that have been responsible for the repression and silencing of opposition voices," he said. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said it's a symbolic effort, but sends a disapproving message to the government in Ukraine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Obama focuses on economic security

State of the Union address. U.S. president flexes his power with executive actions

Vowing to act "whenever and wherever" he can, U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled an array of executive actions in his State of the Union address Tuesday night aimed at bolstering economic security for millions of Americans.

His directives, mostly modest in scope, include increasing wages for some new workers on government contracts, making it easier for lower-income people to save for retirement and providing new incentives to use natural gas.

In a sign of his troubled relationship with the divided Congress, Obama's separate proposals for action by lawmakers were slim and largely focused on old ideas that have gained little traction over the past year. He pressed Congress to revive a stalled immigration overhaul and pass an across-the-board increase in the federal minimum wage. His one new legislation proposal calls for expanding an income tax credit for workers without children.

He touched only briefly on foreign policy, touting the drawdown of American troops from Afghanistan this year and reiterating his threat to veto any new sanctions Congress levies on Iran while nuclear negotiations with the Islamic republic are underway. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union address in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. Air Force

Over 60 officers may have cheated on missile tests

The number of U.S. Air Force service members implicated in a scandal involving alleged cheating on tests of nuclear missile launch operations has roughly doubled from the 34 initially cited, officials said Tuesday. The tests in question are designed to ensure proficiency in handling "emergency war orders," which involve processing orders to launch a missile.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennessee

Nun and activists ordered to pay back damages to nuclear weapons plant

A judge has ordered a nun and two other Catholic peace activists to pay full restitution of nearly $53,000 for damaging the primary U.S. storehouse for bomb-grade uranium.

The three were convicted of sabotage last year after they broke into the nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snowstorm blankets U.S. South

Danielle and Stephen Pilipovic scream along with their father, Roger, as the family enjoys a sled ride down a hill on Tuesday in Maryville, Tenn. The U.S. South was hit by a rare snow and ice storm that cancelled about 900 flights at the world's busiest airport, in Atlanta. TOM SHERLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Not a slave to trends

BlackBerry jumps on FM radio ... 68 years after the CBC

BlackBerry has launched a new feature that it can boast even the latest iPhones don't have: FM radio.

A new version of the BlackBerry 10 operating system, which the Waterloo-based company says includes hundreds of enhancements and new features, started being rolled out Tuesday in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lime mint toothpaste

This may just 'Be' the worst idea since New Coke

Mint chocolate toothpaste?

Procter & Gamble said it is launching a line of Crest toothpastes called "Be" featuring nontraditional flavours: Mint Chocolate Trek, Vanilla Mint Spark and Lime Spearmint Zest.

P&G said the "Be" line was designed to "allow for an unexpected experience through flavours that offer personal expression."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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OK, Glass, order a pair of bold frames in shale

Blind as a bat? Google Glass has you covered, offering four frame styles of the wearable, web-connected gadget

The new Google Glass "Bold" prescription frames in shale colour are modelled at the Google Glass Basecamp space in New York Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google Glass is getting glasses.

The computerized, Internet-connected goggles don't actually come with lenses in their frame. Starting Tuesday, Google is offering an optional attachment for prescription lenses and new styles of detachable sunglasses.

The move comes as Google Inc. prepares to make Glass available to the general population later this year. Currently, Glass is available only to the tens of thousands of people who are testing and creating apps for it.

Glass is basically a small computer, with a camera and a display screen above the wearer's right eye. The device sits roughly at eyebrow level, higher than where eyeglasses would go.

The gadget itself is not changing with this announcement. Rather, the Mountain View, Calif., company is now offering four styles of frames for prescription lenses. It's also offering two new types of shades, in addition to the one previously available. The frames cost $225 US and the shades, $150 US. That's on top of the $1,500 US price of Glass.

Users can take the frames to any vision care provider for prescription lenses. Google says it is working with insurance provider Vision Service Plan to train eyecare providers around the U.S. on how to work with Glass.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eye-popping prices

$1,500+

The frames cost $225 US and the shades, $150 US. That's on top of the $1,500 US price of Glass ... oh, plus the price of lenses.

Mirror stage turns selfie stage in iPad age

Every so often, Brandi Koskie finds dozens of photos of her three-year-old daughter, Paisley, on her iPhone — but they aren't ones Koskie has taken.

"There'll be 90 pictures, sideways, of the corner of her eye, her eyebrow," said Koskie, who lives in Wichita, Kan. "She's just tapping her way right into my phone."

The hidden photos, all shot by Paisley, illustrate a phenomenon familiar to many parents in today's tech-savvy world: Toddlers love selfies. Observant entrepreneurs have caught on to these image-obsessed tots, marketing special apps that make taking photos super-easy for little fingers. You can even buy a pillow with a smartphone pocket so toddlers can take selfies during a diaper change.

Paisley and the iPad are almost the same age and it remains to be seen how such a steady diet of self-affirming navel-gazing will affect members of the first true "smartphone generation."

The instant gratification that smartphones provide today's toddlers is "going to be hard to overcome," said Deborah Best, a professor of cognitive developmental psychology at Wake Forest University. "They like things immediately, and they like it short and quick. It's going to have an impact on kids' ability to wait for gratification." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paisley, 3, uses Facetime.
BRANDI KOSKIE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Our toddlers, our selfies

Don't raise a miniature Narcissus

It's natural for toddlers to be fascinated with their own image (think mirrors), and that interest plays an important developmental role as they develop a sense of self, child development experts say.

But like any other fun thing kids get obsessed with, too much of it can be bad. Parents should make sure some photos show the child with other family members or friends.

My (mannequin) body's too bootylicious for ya, babe

The one-size-fits-all mannequin is getting a much-needed makeover. Stores are using more realistic versions of the usually tall, svelte, faceless mannequins in windows and aisles. David's Bridal mannequins soon will get thicker waists, saggier breasts and back fat to mimic a more realistic shape. America's largest bridal chain started changing its fit mannequins used to create gowns to reflect the average body. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PEACE SYMBOL NEEDS BOLSTERING

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

The signs are everywhere.

For example, on Sunday, Pope Francis released two white doves of peace from his window at the Vatican, assisted by two extremely cute children.

It was a gesture of hope that the bloody protests in the Ukraine could be resolved.

Seconds after the doves were released, they were attacked by a big nasty crow and an even bigger, nastier seagull.

Well, you don't have to be Robert Langdon — Dan Brown's professor of religious symbology from Angels and Demons — to get the idea on that one, especially as the world's media gleefully featured a photo of the forces of darkness (crow) locked in a death struggle with faith and hope (snow white dove).

The dove got the worst of it.

It's a little harder to interpret the attack by the seagull, which is not known for its poetics.

"Big hungry bird breaks for lunch," perhaps.

Signs aside, there's a perfectly logical scientific explanation for the attack of the angry birds, according to National Geographic. White doves stand out in a crowd of otherwise grey pigeons; they can't hide, and predators single them out for attack.

Which is why those albino wildlife don't last long in nature, another potentially rich vein of overwrought symbology.

Meanwhile, the white dove, a pristine symbol of faith and hope, is just a pigeon of a different colour. It's just as feisty when it comes to fighting for that last scrap and it's known to eats bugs.

Hardly holy.

This is not the first time the Doves of the Vatican have been repelled. The doves of the previous pontiff, pope Benedict, were attacked by a seagull last year, and then turned around and tried to fly back into the window, crying "Sanctuary!" in dovish.

Maybe the popes should audition a slightly more robust avian symbol of peace and love. Like the bald eagle, a symbol of America's tough love for generations of banana republicans.

After all, St. Michael the Archangel has a sword for exactly this kind of thing. Some demon, who thinks he's a soft touch with all the long hair and gossamer wings, tries to knock him over — and bam!

Out comes the Sword of Righteousness and our demon is instantly sorry he ever heard of St. Michael the Archangel.

This is really Pope Francis' first PR miscalculation. He has already managed to atone for the sins of the papacy in his famous "Who am I to judge?" interview about gay people. You'd think he might have learned from his predecessor's feathered follies.

Or maybe this will inspire him to reach back into his Gospel and show mercy to his winged tormenters. "Let he who is without sin … stone the crows."

ZOOM

I'm not ashamed of the way I look

SERGEY KOKINSKIY/SOLENT NEWS

Molting penguin is a head-turner

Even in the animal kingdom, a unique dress sense is sure to catch the eye of an onlooker. Here, a king penguin stands out from the flock as it has not finished its molting process. Photographer Sergey Kokinskiy travelled to the remote island of South Georgia in the southern Atlantic Ocean to capture the penguin flock, which can sometimes number over 200,000.

Every year in the spring, king penguins molt in order to replace old feathers with new ones, a process that lasts three to four weeks. As they molt, their feathers lose their insulating and waterproofing properties, so during this time penguins stay away from the water until their plumage is fully restored. As they fast while molting, penguins can lose 44 per cent of their original weight. METRO

A foreigner on their land

"Penguins' individual features allow the fur to stay on parts of the body longer than others."

Sergey Kokinskiy, from Tula, Russia

"If you sit down and don't make any sudden movements, the penguins with come to you within five or 10 minutes. Some will try to bite you too – out of curiosity."

King of the islands

- **Location.** Sits 1,390 kilometres to the east of Falkland Islands. Administered by the British government.
- **Population.** Approximately 2.23 million pairs of king penguins, with numbers rising. No human residents.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

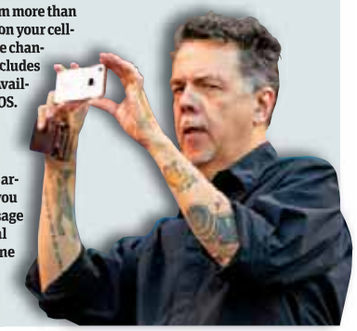
Much of the coverage of technology's darker side has focused on how they — governments, law enforcement, corporations — are using smartphones and computers to watch us. However, a smattering of intrepid developers are trying to turn the tables, building apps that empower us — either by letting us listen in or assist us during an arrest.

Police Scanner 5-0:

This free app lets you stream more than 2,500 police and fire feeds on your cellphone. Most of the available channels are American, but it includes some Canadian ones, too. Available for both Android and iOS.

I'm Getting Arrested:

In the event of an untimely arrest, this Android app lets you broadcast a pre-made message to your friends, family, legal counsel, etc. I want my phone call, indeed.



GETTY IMAGES

Twitter

@metropicks asked: According to Google searches, Canada is boring, corrupt and cold. How do you want Canada to be viewed?

@NerdwithWerds: Canada Home of Hockey and Great Beer

@awdarn: LOL if it keeps them away it's all good

@mtlkeith: Researched by who DUMB AND DUMBER??? #Canadaisthebest

@mtlkeith: Amen brother. Give me a Blue over here eh?

@iSeeHiighPeople: at least other countries (people) like us …. which is more than I can see for the folks just under us

@igor_mariano: Canada is all about cultural diversity and natural beauties

@PadraigBennett: exemplary in every aspect.

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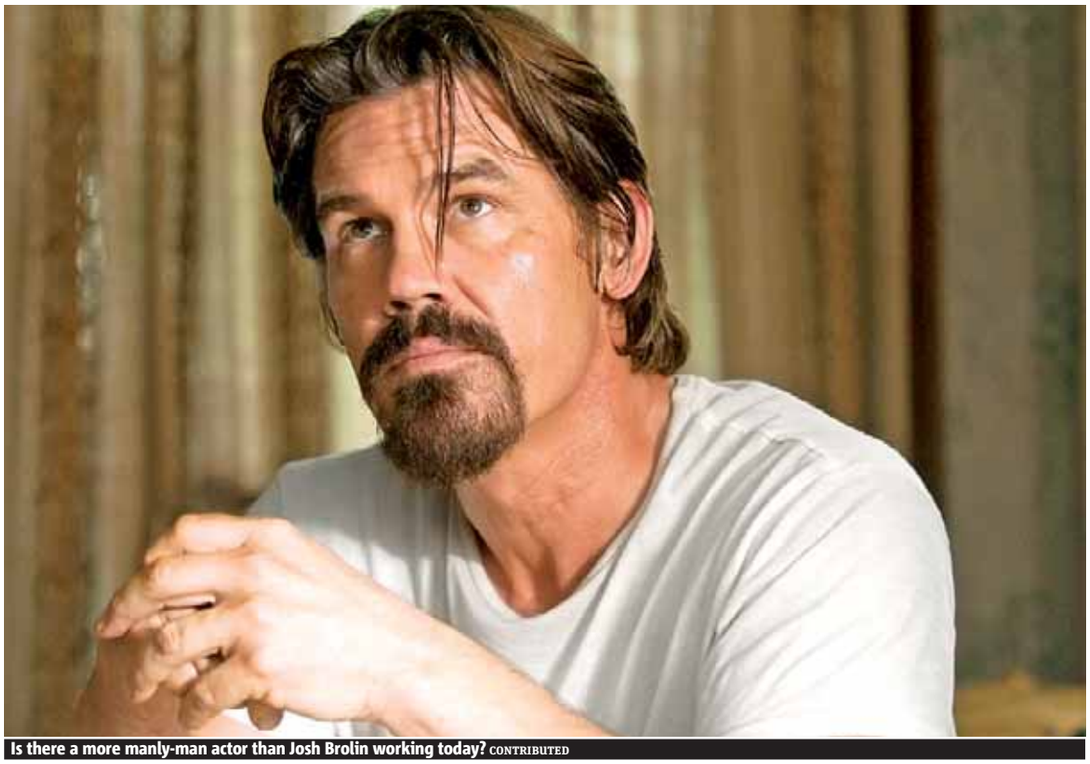
SCENE 2

Need a troubled tough guy for your next film? Call Brolin

Labor Day. From crooks to cons, actor plays shady characters with aplomb

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca



Is there a more manly-man actor than Josh Brolin working today? CONTRIBUTED

In my review for the recent remake of Oldboy I wrote of Josh Brolin, "there is no more manly-man actor in the mold of Lee Marvin or Lee Van Cleef working today."

I guess that shouldn't be a surprise given that he was named after the rough-and-tumble character Josh Randall, played by Steve McQueen in TV's Wanted: Dead or Alive.

In Oldboy he's so tough he's a practically indestructible force of nature; able to withstand physical punishment that would make Grigori Rasputin look like a wimp.

The tough guy angle is one Brolin plays in a number of films, including his latest Labor Day.

He plays an escaped convict who hides out in the home of a depressed, widowed agoraphobic, played by Kate Winslet.

Over the course of one long holiday weekend she learns of his dangerous past and before you can say the words Stockholm Syndrome has fallen for the ruggedly handsome stranger.

It's the kind of role that Brolin has mastered; the multi-layered tough guy. But according to him, he doesn't seek out those roles.

He says he wracks his "brain like crazy trying to figure out which films I wanted to be in."

Some of those films include No Country for Old Men and Jonah Hex.

In the Oscar-nominated No Country he plays down-on-his-luck Llewelyn Moss, who stumbles across the site of a drug deal gone wrong.

Bullet-ridden dead men litter the landscape along with several kilos of heroin and a suitcase stuffed with two million dollars in cash. When he makes off with the money his life and the lives of those around him are changed forever.

Jonah Hex didn't earn any Oscar nods, but did get some Razzie attention in the form of nominations for Worst Screen Couple for Brolin and co-star Megan Fox.

The story of a supernatural bounty hunter set on revenge against the man who killed his family is as disfigured as its main character's face, but Brolin brings his real-life swagger to the role and has fun with some of the tongue-in-what's-left-of-his-cheek lines.

One tough guy role got away from him, however. Online speculation had it that he would be cast as the Caped Crusader in the upcoming Batman vs. Superman.

Although he would have been perfect for the part he lost out to Ben Affleck. Contrary to his bruiser persona he was gracious in defeat. "I'm happy for Ben," he said.

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Justin Bieber MIAMI DADE COUNTY JAIL

Bring roses for the judge? Biebs will go a-courting on Valentine's Day

Justin Bieber has a Valentine's Day date with a South Florida judge on charges of DUI, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

A Miami-Dade County judge on Tuesday set a Feb. 14 arraignment date for the 19-year-old star. In an arraignment, prosecutors formally file charges and a plea is entered, although a defendant's lawyer can enter the plea in writing. Bieber might not be required to attend.

Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were arrested last week in Miami Beach during what police described as an illegal street drag race between a Lamborghini and a Ferrari. Neithe .Police say Bieber admitted to smoking marijuana, drinking and taking a prescription medication.

Meanwhile, a petition has been launched calling to have Bieber deported and his green card revoked. The petition has already garnered more than 50,000 signatures. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND METRO WORLD NEWS**

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Will Madge sing with Miley?

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

I've been saying for some time now that the reason for Miley Cyrus' aggressive sexuality and sexy space alien look is that she's trying to be our generation's Madonna. However, I never expected that this would endear her to the original Madonna — the two are apparently planning a performance together.

Miley is working on an acoustic set for MTV's Unplugged. It seems like a good move for the Bangerz star: She's got the fame, now she needs the cred that comes from a vocal-driven, stripped-down set with no midgets to spank or foam fingers to hump. And according to E! Online, rumour has it the Material Girl herself will stop by to perform with Miley.

The two were reportedly spotted rehearsing together, but MTV hasn't confirmed Madonna's appearance.

Was Sienna the mystery woman heard on Daniel's voice mail?

A U.K. tabloid reporter who has pleaded guilty to phone hacking said Tuesday that he played the News of the World's editor a hacked voice mail left for actor Daniel Craig by actress Sienna Miller, with whom Craig was having an affair.

Dan Evans is a prosecution witness at the trial of his former boss, Andy Coulson, and six others, on charges related to wrongdoing at the now-shuttered Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid.

Evans told the trial that in 2005 he eavesdropped on Craig's voice mails and heard a message from a woman saying: "Hi, it's me. Cannot speak. I'm at the Groucho (Club) with Jude. I love you."

The call came from Miller's number. The newspaper later ran a story alleging an affair between the actress — then involved with Jude Law — and future 007 Craig.

Evans said Coulson heard the recording, then told him how to cover his tracks by making a copy, putting it in a bag and taking it to the newspaper's reception so it would look like it had been dropped off anonymously.

Murdoch shut the tabloid News of the World in 2011 after details emerged of the scale of its snooping on celebrities, politicians and others in the public eye. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Daniel Craig GETTY IMAGES

Welcome to Sochi

No doubt you have some questions about the Russian locale that will play host to the 2014 Winter Olympics. Here are a few details about the resort city dubbed the Russian Riviera.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For visitors to the Winter Olympics, Sochi may feel like a landscape from a dream — familiar and strange at once. Palm trees evoke a tropical seaside resort, but the Black Sea itself is seriously cold; turn away from the palms and the jagged, snow-covered peaks of the Caucasus Mountains rise nearby. Lively and garish modern buildings mix with Stalin Gothic piles, like trophy wives on the arms of elderly men. Billboards are written in an alphabet in which some letters sound exactly like you think they do, others mean something else and the rest are flat-out alien. What may seem oddest of all is the city's cheerful and relaxed aura in a country stereotyped as dour. Even a local statue of Vladimir Lenin catches the casual vibe. He's not haranguing the masses, just standing under some trees with one hand in his pocket as if he's killing time waiting for a date.

Will they understand me?

Volunteer staff at Olympics test events spoke excellent English and sometimes struck up conversations just to improve their skills (or show off). But outside the Olympic venues and large hotels, communication in languages other than Russian is likely to be difficult. The Games' organizing committee recommends that mobile device users download a translation app.

The Cyrillic alphabet isn't as hard as it may look, and spending a couple of hours to master it brings sizeable rewards. Russian has many loanwords from English, French and German, so being able to sound out words can make the place pop into better focus. For example, knowing that "teatp" is pronounced "teater," it's a reasonable and correct guess that it means "theatre." Note that bars advertising "xayc" are offering "house" music and not a homey atmosphere.

An aerial view of some of the Olympic buildings under construction in Sochi. GETTY IMAGES

Am I in Sochi?

Rather like New York City, Sochi is a sprawling municipality, incorporating four boroughs. Confusingly, one of the four is called Sochi. So it's possible to both be in Sochi and say "I'm going to Sochi."

All the Olympic events take place in the Adler borough, though the snow sports venues are often referred to as being in specific settlements such as Krasnaya Polyana and Esto-Sadok.

Sochi borough is more or less the Manhattan of the city, home to the best restaurants, coolest clubs and the main cultural institutions. The urban part of Adler also has attractive restaurants. But while its attractions are relatively cosmopolitan, and its coastline is 90 miles long (145 kilometres), Sochi is not a big city population-wise, with only about 350,000 inhabitants.

What's for dinner?

Russian cooking can be hard on the waistline but good for the taste buds. Even nominally low-calorie soups such as the beet-based borscht boost their count when a typical large dollop of sour cream is added. Pelmeni, dumplings filled with minced meat or vegetables, meet almost everyone's taste. Entrees often come without additional items, so potatoes and other vegetables must be ordered separately. Russia has a wine industry of sorts, but refined palates may find it disappointing. Vodka, seen as both Russia's treasure and it's curse, is often ordered by the gram, with 100 grams (3.5 ounces) the standard to get the night started. Sochi is also a good place to sample the food of nearby Georgia, including the renowned cheese-filled hot bread called khachapuri; as well as tsatsivi, or chicken in walnut sauce; and the plum-based soup kharcho.

Both the Black Sea and Sochi's daytime temperatures should be around 10 C during the Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How's the weather?

Rain, snow, sun, fog, warmish, cold — a few days at the Olympics likely will include them all. On the coast, where the ice sports and opening and closing ceremonies take place, daytime temperatures should be around 50 F (10 C) and freezing is unlikely. In the mountains, temperatures generally don't get severely cold; at the lower elevations, where ski-jumping and sliding sports take place, the prospect of rain and above-freezing temperatures is a concern.

The Caucasus Mountains rise above Sochi. ISTOCK

What can I do besides watch sports?

Downtown Sochi and Adler both have long and appealing seaside promenades, complete with tacky souvenir stands, lively bars and restaurants. Sochi also has an attractive passenger harbour, whose spired terminal is one of the city's standout buildings, and an art museum.

The most idiosyncratic attraction may be Sochi's extensive mountainside botanical garden, the Dendrarium, with an unusual array of plants showing the variable climate.

Sochi has long been a choice destination for Russia's political elite. Joseph Stalin's summer residence in Zeleni Mys even features a wax mannequin of the dictator at his desk. A swim in the Black Sea may make an unusual Winter Olympics memory. The beaches are stony and the water temperature will be around 50 F (10 C); concerns have been raised about pollution in the sea around Dagomys, north of downtown Sochi. Although most of Sochi's sports facilities will be devoted to the Games, the Gornaya Karusel ski area expects to have some slopes open to the public, organizers say. A classic Russian way to while away an afternoon is a trip to the banya, like a sauna but somewhat steamier. If your hotel doesn't have one, it can likely recommend a good one nearby. A proper trip to the banya involves several hours of repeatedly heating up and cooling down, along with snacking and having a few drinks.

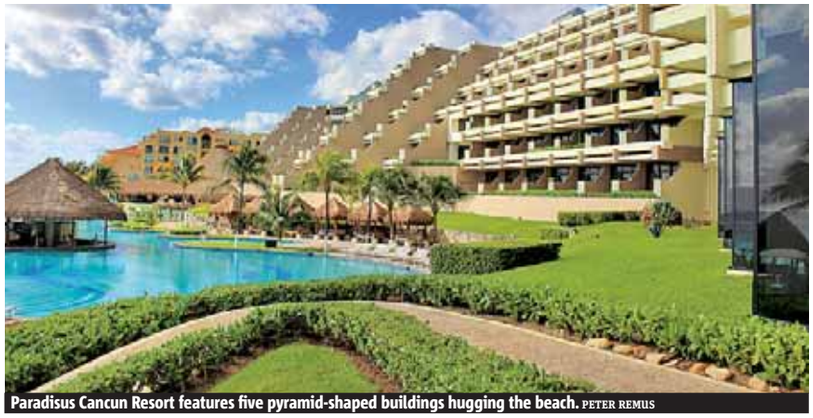
Tired of the sports? Shop for some Russian tchotchkes in downtown Sochi and Adler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local tourist agencies offer other excursions. These include day trips to the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia, but visitors will need a double-entry Russian visa to get back into Sochi, and travel to the rest of Georgia is forbidden to those who come to Abkhazia from the Russian side.

Cancun is all grown up

Beyond spring break. Mexico's top resort destination is ramping up the class with new attractions and amenities

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca



Paradisus Cancun Resort features five pyramid-shaped buildings hugging the beach. PETER REMUS

The Cancun Underwater Museum features 400 submerged sculptures. CANCUN CVB

More than 40 years after its inception and subsequent transformation into Mexico's premiere resort destination, Cancun is embracing middle age. No longer just a place for college kids to get their groove on, Cancun is smart, sleek and more appealing than ever before.

Learn

Instead of worrying about the end of the world, Cancun marked the end of 2012 and the latest cycle in the Mayan calendar by opening the Cancun Maya Museum. Located in the middle of the hotel zone, the museum boasts three exhibition halls housing 350 artifacts, which tell the history of the Maya in the Yucatán.

The incredibly serene grounds contain the stone remains of the San Miguelito archeological site, inhabited more than 800 years ago. A quick wander through the museum and grounds will fuel your passion to get out and explore larger sites like Tulum or Chichén Itzá, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

Play

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is the world's second largest reef after Australia's Great Barrier Reef. It runs along the coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, making the waters off of Cancun a paradise for snorkellers and scuba divers. You can also sail or boat or take a day trip to Isla Mujeres. An easy excursion from Cancun, the island is a quieter, more low-key option for those looking to escape the crowds on the beaches off of Kukulkan Boulevard.

See

The city's latest offering is the inspired Cancun Underwater Museum, a collection of 400 submerged sculptures by eco-sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor. The sculptures tell stories envisioned by the artist and are made with materials that are safe for the marine life. Together, the sculptures serve as an artificial reef and provide protection to the delicate coral. Bring a snorkel and mask for a close up look.

Stay

The recently renovated Paradisus Cancun Resort is comprised of five pyramid shaped structures hugging the beach.

Apart from noticeably impressive service levels, the hotel's focus on food and drink makes it a great choice among the 150 hotels available to book. It offers an all inclusive daily rate, which is perfect for people who want to worry about the budget before vacation, not during.

Find out what happens in Vegas.

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Chowder leaves room for imagination

Weeknight meal. Loaded with seafood, this dish allows you to improvise ingredients without sacrificing any of the flavour

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

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30 MINUTES

This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

This chowder is quick enough to make for a weeknight meal or to keep in mind when entertaining on the weekend.

It has a creamy base to it but is not heavy because it uses milk instead of cream.

You can jazz the chowder up with additional flavours by adding diced tomatoes or other vegetables like peas and corn. Check out your pantry and get creative in the kitchen.

Tarragon is a licorice-flavoured fresh herb that shines through in this soup. Dried tarragon works just as well in a pinch. If tarragon isn't available, use Italian parsley for a fresh alternative.

Serve this soup with garlic bread and a green salad for a heart warming dinner that's perfect for a cold winter's night while keeping healthy in mind.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
- 1 shallot, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 1 pkg (8 oz/227 g) mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
- 2 cups (500 ml) 2 % milk
- 2 cups (500 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 6 oz (200 g) raw shrimp, peeled and deveined, chopped
- 6 oz (200 g) bay scallops
- 1 can (142 g) baby clams, drained and rinsed

1. Heat oil in soup pot over medium high heat and cook shallot, garlic, celery, mushrooms, pepper and tarragon 10 mins or until liquid evaporates.

2. Add milk and broth and bring to a gentle boil.

3. Add shrimp, scallop and clams and simmer for about 5 mins or until scallops are opaque and firm.

Cooking tips

- Look for fresh seafood at your local grocer and use it the same day or by the next day. If you are purchasing frozen seafood, let it thaw overnight in the refrigerator.
- You can use salmon to replace either the shrimp or scallops. One salmon portion, which is usually about 5 oz (150 g), is the perfect amount for this soup.

Are you feeling stressed or anxious as a result of the June flood?

Visit www.facebook.com/floodstudy for info about a U of C study looking at the potential of vitamins and minerals in coping with stress.

Go to www.bit.ly/floodstudy to see if you qualify.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

It's raining mentors!

Happy National Mentoring Month. The time is right to consider the qualities of a good mentoring relationship, and some strategies for finding a great advisor

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

Your mentor is someone you can trust to provide sincere performance feedback, since they are invested in seeing you succeed. ISTOCK

It's a truism that having a mentor is important if you want to fast track your career.

An experienced advisor can steer you along a career trajectory, navigating around professional obstacles and raising your profile with senior executives.

Gaining the public endorsement of your mentor can go a long way toward building your professional credibility, especially if they are a recognized leader in the field. They can also assist you to better understand the industry.

Three qualities of great mentors

There is a long list of attributes to a successful mentoring relationship, but here are three of the most cited.

Accessibility
The right mentor can help you develop the skills for career success — and unlock a world of opportunity.

It may seem obvious, but a good mentor will consistently make time for you in their schedule. You'll get more out of a busy advisor if your meetings are structured with an agenda or at the very least, by a list of questions you come prepared with to productively guide the conversation.

Good listener
Your mentor must seek to understand who you are and what you need before jumping in with advice, knowledge and insights. Instead of delivering a lecture, the best mentors listen actively and ask the right questions — inspiring you to do the thinking.

Confidence builder
In the process of engaging with your mentor you should be developing greater self-awareness. Your mentor should help you to see and believe in your own potential, challenge and inspire you, and encourage you to reach for your highest goals.

Finding your career mentor

Many workplaces have formal mentoring programs, but there are many ways to find informal mentoring relationships on your own.

Go back to class
Register yourself in a professional development seminar to learn a new skill or upgrade existing ones — and in the processes connect with industry experts. For example: Canadian Marketing Association seminars, the Entrepreneurs' Organization, the Canadian Association of Women Executives.

Use social media
Find, follow, and reach out online to influencers on Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn and Quora — to build a personal learning network. And don't forget to join and contribute to LinkedIn Groups.

Fill up your events calendar
Research and plan to attend industry events, to learn what's new and connect with organizers and speakers as prospective mentors. Introduce yourself, business card in hand, and having done your homework and perfected your elevator speech.
And because, as Seth Godin rightly observed, "no one actually ever bought anything on an elevator" — craft your speech to begin professional relationships, not as a hard sell seeking to close a deal.

Found a mentor?

Great, now keep looking for another one.

- As IMD Business School professor Suzanne de Janasz advises, "more is better than fewer" when it comes to career advisors.
- "Even if you have the smartest mentor in the world in your back pocket," De Janasz warns, and even if they provide you with excellent mentoring advice and the performance feedback you crave, "one person does not know everything."

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Tell me more: What do you have to say for myself?

We, like our awesome Olympians, deserve to hear cheers when we're doing great things. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The feedback we crave. How to get it, how to use it, and how to give it back

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

Recently, Canadian Olympic athletes were surveyed by Mondelēz Canada about the best ways for spectators to cheer them on to a gold medal standing in Sochi.

Fully three-quarters of them said that "hearing their fans cheering and shouting" and seeing them "waving encouraging signs of support" is highly motivational.

Feedback matters, to athletes, to all of us.

Sometimes feedback isn't easy to come by. For Gen Y, a cohort accustomed to the instantaneity of social media feedback loops, it can be frustrating when your work performance isn't evaluated. If feedback expectations are unmet, employees are likely to feel unmotivated, isolated, and are more apt to jump ship.

Thanks anyway: ignoring the wrong feedback

At other times we get feedback but fail to act on it.

This is especially common if the feedback feels like it's the wrong kind.

For example, we're unlikely to take feedback to heart when it seems contradictory. Likewise for many, praise and recognition, while nice to hear, are not what we most crave at work.

It turns out that six out of ten people prefer corrective feedback (such as suggestions for improvement) over positive feedback (such as congratulatory comments), according to Harvard Business Review.

Key attributes of efficient and usable feedback are frequency, clarity, and specificity, observes Jay Gilbert in the University of Western Ontario's Ivey Business Journal. But it takes time, and a lot of it, to provide that kind of personalized feedback.

As employers seek to create a culture of feedback and collaboration, more are adopting enterprise software systems to socialize employee reviews.

Helping staff get 360-degree peer-to-peer feedback — not once a year but continuously — is the idea.

It makes good business sense, because research shows that regular, low-stakes assessment is highly effective. That's because it allows the receiver to make incremental improvements and small adjustments. They are then less likely to become immobilized, defeated, and overwhelmed by a deluge of decontextualized feedback in an annual assessment.

Social feedback

If you feel the need for more feedback on your creative work and ideas, turn to the social web.

A bit of web sleuthing is almost guaranteed to uncover a niche community where you can engage in commentary, ask questions, and practice social reciprocity by giving feedback while also receiving it. Some examples:

Graphic designers and photographers

Look to the Behance network or DeviantART (both have free/paid options) to showcase and discover design work and submit your creative work for critique by a global community. If you're a photographer, Flickr or 1X (free/paid) communities are good bets to receive professional feedback. All of these sites also do double duty by hosting online creative portfolios for a fee.

Writers and editors

Want feedback on your writing? Beyond fan fiction sites, visit ABCTales (free) or Critique Circle (paid), two large active communities where published and aspiring authors can share, discuss and develop their work.

Fashion designers and stylists

For fashionistas, try LookBook and Polyvore to get community feedback from other (established as well as up-and-coming) stylists, models, and designers.

And as a bonus, by becoming involved in a feedback community, online or off, you'll also expand your professional networks — and don't forget that volunteering is another way to garner feedback while giving back.

Don't be surprised if a quest for feedback ends up inspiring your next great idea and uncovers some collaborators to help make it happen.

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Need to brainstorm on that business idea?

- If you have a new project or entrepreneurial endeavour and want to test it out and get some feedback on it, try Quora for general questions, and Kickstarter for both community feedback and funding support.

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MNGT 126	Modeling Business Data	Feb 24
PHOT 200	Basic Photography	Feb 24
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CMPN 331	Windows Server 208 Networking	Mar 4
CPRG 190	iOS Development	Mar 4
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#QuestionoftheDay

If you could give your former self just ONE piece of career advice, what would it be?

@EDSPowell
I'd warn past-me that "concentrating on school" is not an exemption from "planning for after graduation."

@GarretHowes
get real experience before graduating. Joining different school initiatives, volunteering etc...

@SanchitaL
Create a 3 year short term plan & prepare questions on team culture/attitude & abilities for mentorship in yr interviews.

@ademoba
start your career in finance, stick with it and do a CFA

@robin_isTO:
"relax, be yourself" #beyourself #confidence

@graymalk:
it would be: don't waste time being too scared to try engineering. You can do it.

@HaliSamantha:
If I could give my former self ONE piece of career advice it would be: Do loads of informational interviews!

The Flames' Sean Monahan, left, and Joe Colborne combine to level the Blackhawks' Jonathan Toews at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Tuesday night.
JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flames flatten Blackhawks in OT

NHL. Brodie scores winning goal after home team squanders three leads in regulation

T.J. Brodie scored at 2:26 of overtime to lead the Calgary Flames to a 5-4 win over the slumping Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday.

Mikael Backlund scored twice for the Flames (19-27-7), who won three straight games for the first time this season. Matt Stajan had a goal and an assist, Lance Bouma also scored and Lee Stempniak set up three goals.

On Tuesday

5	4
Flames	Blackhawks

Marian Hossa scored twice for the Blackhawks (32-10-13), who have gone 0-2-2 in their previous four games. Patrick Kane and Ben Smith also scored for Chicago.

Neither of the starting goalies played particularly well and both were pulled by their respective head coaches.

Reto Berra stopped 20 of 24 shots he faced through two periods before Karri Ramo took over in the Calgary net for the final frame. Ramo made nine saves to pick up the win.

Antti Raanta drew the start in net for Chicago, but was pulled after he stopped just 11 of 15 shots he faced through 1 1/2 periods of play. Corey Crawford came on in relief and stopped 13 consecutive shots before giving up Brodie's OT goal.

In overtime, Crawford stopped a shot from the slot by Calgary forward Sean Monahan. Brodie then picked up the rebound and scored a wrap-around goal to emerge as the hero. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Former Senators forward hangs up his skates

Vaclav Prospal has retired following a 16-year NHL career.

The move wasn't a surprise. Prospal was scheduled to join the Utica Comets — the Vancouver Canucks' AHL affiliate — last weekend for games against the Abbotsford Heat.

But after talking with his family, the NHL club said the 38-year-old had decided to retire. The NHL Players' Association made it official Tuesday.

The native of Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, appeared in 1,108 career NHL games with Anaheim, Columbus, Florida, the New York Rangers, Ottawa, Philadelphia and Tampa Bay. He registered 255 goals and 765 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Baseball OKs protective caps

Big-league pitchers might feel safer on the mound this season.

Major League Baseball has approved a protective cap for pitchers Tuesday, hoping to reduce the damage from line drives to the head that have brought some terrifying scenes in the last few years.

The heavier and bigger new hat was introduced Tuesday and will be available for testing during spring training on a voluntary basis. Major leaguers and minor leaguers won't be required to wear it — comfort is likely to be a primary concern.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman speaks on Tuesday in Newark, N.J. GETTY IMAGES

Touch of NHL at icy Super Bowl

Internet star Lil Terrio danced with cheerleaders, an Austrian man dressed as Mozart, another guy wore a Waldo costume and Nickelodeon's Pick Boy was in the house at Prudential Center.

Welcome to Media Day, the annual Super Bowl circus.

It seems fitting this event was held at a hockey rink, of all places, because there's nothing ordinary about it. More than 6,000 journalists, pseudo-journalists and other credentialed "media" from all over the world gathered at the home of the NHL's New Jersey Devils on Tuesday to meet the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks.

Strange questions were the norm instead of football ones. A man asked Seahawks centre Max Unger if he could touch his long, scruffy beard. He said yes. A woman asked Seahawks defensive lineman Brandon Mebane for a kiss. He said no.

Perhaps the only player who felt at home was Seattle tight end Luke Willson. He grew up in Canada, played hockey through his sophomore year of high school and was genuinely psyched to be in an NHL arena.

"I thought it was kind of cool to be here," said Willson, a fan of the Maple Leafs. "I was a left-winger, grinding forward-type of guy. I have two brothers and we would play on the street in front of the house, go to spring camps, played all the time. I played a lot of hockey."

Media Day is one of the wildest scenes in sports. Even current football players were in on the "reporting" action. Eagles Pro Bowl wide receiver DeSean Jackson co-hosted a show for BET. Steelers defensive end Brett Keisel interviewed players for a shampoo promotion.

"This is pretty crazy, man. Pretty crazy," Broncos defensive end Malik Jackson said. "They told us there were going to be people dressed up, but you never really know what to expect until you see them."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Close to a return?

The Lightning's Steven Stamkos skates during practice in Toronto on Tuesday. Stamkos, who broke his leg in November, practised 20 minutes during a morning skate prior to the Lightning's 3-2 loss to the Maple Leafs. Stamkos said his goal is to suit up for one of Tampa Bay's final six games prior to the Olympic break and then participate in the Sochi games next month. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Contingency plans don't bother players

Olympic security. Sochi-bound NHLers know the league will only keep them from competing in Russia for good reason

The NHL's Olympic break is less than two weeks away, but the threat of terrorism is keeping the situation volatile.

After deputy commissioner Bill Daly said the league would consider pulling out of Sochi if something "significant" happens before players arrive, those set to participate are trying not to worry about that scenario.

"Between the NHL and the NHLPA and the Olympic people, in communication obviously with the people in Russia, they're going to advise us if we shouldn't go," Ken Holland of Canada's management team said Tuesday. "I'm looking at the lead of the NHL.

"Until they tell us we're not going, I'm going to Newark and going to jump on a plane and go to Sochi."

A Hockey Canada spokesman said the organization had no official comment, adding nothing has changed about the situation.

Charter planes are scheduled to leave for Sochi on Feb. 9, two days after the opening ceremony. Security concerns are keeping athletes on edge well before that, though Daly said in an email to The Associated Press he doesn't expect the plan to change.

"Obviously, if something significant were to transpire between now and Feb. 9 that causes us to question that conclusion, we will re-evaluate," Daly said.

Forward Tomas Tatar, who will represent Slovakia, read about that Tuesday morning before the Detroit Red Wings' morning skate.

"There would (have to) be a good reason if something happens before," Tatar said. "Obviously that would be not everything's OK there, so I would probably agree with the people here — why we should go there if something is not good? Hopefully nothing will happen and I think everything's in good hands." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"A lot of crazy people running around in the world today. It's not only in Russia."

Jakub Voracek of the Czech Republic and the Philadelphia Flyers

Successful survey

A majority of Canadians equate men's hockey gold with success at the Olympics, a new poll suggests.

- Nearly three-quarters of those surveyed in the Harris/Decima poll said Canada winning gold in men's hockey is "important in determining the success of the Games."
- But even more say they view avoiding security threats as the most important measure of whether the Sochi Olympics are a success.

COC pressures athletes to 'maintain the gain'

The goal is the same, but it will be harder to achieve without the advantage of home ice and snow.

Winning more medals than any other country is Canada's objective at the Sochi Olympics, as it was four years ago in Vancouver.

Canada's 26 medals was good for third overall in 2010, but winning the gold-medal count with a record 14 raised the stakes for Sochi.

Canadians know now their country can be the best in the world in winter sports. The pressure is on to at least "maintain the gain."

"We want to be a contender for the total medals championship and to be No. 1," Canadian Olympic Committee president Marcel Aubut says. "We have tried to do everything to get prepared for this incredible and ambitious goal. We love ambitious goals."

A host country beating its medal count at the following Games is rare. It has happened only three times.

The last country to do so happens to be Canada, with five medals in Calgary in 1988 followed by seven in Albertville, France, in 1992.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A bigger haul

36

There are 36 more medals to be won in Sochi than there were in Vancouver

Snowboard cross

Injury puts Ricker repeat in doubt

Defending Olympic snowboard cross champion Maelle Ricker needs surgery after suffering a wrist injury Tuesday.

The West Vancouver, B.C., native was injured during pre-Olympic training, putting her appearance at next month's Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, in doubt.

Steven Hills, Canada Snowboard's executive director, couldn't say whether or not the injury was a break or fracture and expected to release further details Wednesday.

He added he expects Ricker, the defending world champion, would still be able to compete at the Olympics.

"While the timing of this injury is very unfortunate, we know that Maelle is an incredibly resilient athlete that has battled back from several injuries over her career to accomplish great things for Canada," said Hills in a release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maelle Ricker GETTY IMAGES

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With a new 2014 Chevrolet Silverado upon us, you just know that a new Tahoe and Suburban are not far behind. In fact, they're coming for the 2015 model year and will be sleeker and lighter than before.

Also in the works for 2015 is a new small-truck replacement for the Chevy Colorado that departed the lineup at the end of the 2012 model year.

So here's the truck that got the ball rolling. With the all-new Silverado 1500-series, Chevrolet appears to have done its homework and paid close attention to what buyers are looking for to haul and tow their stuff. It looks familiar, but there are more powerful/efficient engines as well as improvements in nearly every other area. In front, the twin-stacked headlights remain, but the grille is now much more prominent and tougher looking.

Behind the tailgate, the handy "Corner Step" bumper has recessed footholds that, combined with built-in handholds inside the box, make accessing the bed much easier. The doors are now "inlaid" into the body, which cuts wind noise at highway speeds.

Inside, the dashboard and control panel that houses the optional eight-inch touch screen are positioned in a tidy pod for easy viewing and all of the oversized knobs and switches are work-glove-friendly and clearly marked.

All body styles — regular, extended Double Cab (now featuring front-hinged rear doors with outside handles) and four-door Crew Cab — are attached to reworked frames with more high-strength steel, extra bracing for stiffness and improved body mounts that help isolate road nose and vibration.

SILVERADO HD — $39,200

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TAHOE: FULL-SIZE SUV — $53,300
TRAVERSE: FULL-SIZED SUV — $34,600
TRAX: COMPACT TALL WAGON — $20,000

For 2014, you can order the Crew Cab with a longer 80-inch bed (the standard bed is 68 inches) version and you will get a choice of three new all-aluminum engines. The entry point is a 4.3-litre V6 that has the same displacement as the previous V6, but output has significantly increased to 285 horsepower and 305 pound-feet of torque from 195/260. Optional is a 5.3-litre V8 with 355 horses and 383 pound-feet, up from 315/335.

Later in the model year, they will be joined by an available 6.2-litre V8 rated at 420 horsepower and 440 pound-feet of torque, which shares its parts with the new Corvette V8. All three power plants feature direct fuel injection, which tailors the fuel load for the task at hand. They also have continuously variable valve timing (which allows in more fuel and air depending in the power needs) and cylinder deactivation that cuts off up to half the cylinders in light load and cruise situations. The model range also extends to include a new premium "High Country" model to appeal to wealthy ranchers and city slickers.

The best part about this truck is its highly optioned leather interior that places it above the previous top-of-the-line LTZ. New safety technology is aimed at keeping you out of a crash and not just protecting you in the event of a crash. There's optional blind-spot alert, rear cross traffic alert and both forward collision alert and lane-departure warning.

The 2014 Traverse also gets this tech, but adds a very cool front centre airbag that's designed to keep front occupants from colliding during a side impact.

– Wheelbase Media

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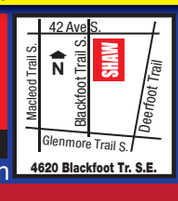

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HEAVY LIFTING

GMC TRUCKS AND WAGONS HAVE OWN STYLE AND ATTITUDE

SIERRA — $28,200

Physically square, but very cool at the same time, is the tough-looking GMC line of tall wagons and trucks. Nope, there are no cars in this lineup at all.

That's better left to Chevrolet so that GMC can concentrate on the heavy lifting. For 2014, the GMC Sierra and the related Chevy Silverado each continue with their own style and attitude, although the "attitude" part is hard to define, exactly.

While Chevrolet positions the Silverado as a kind of middle-ground pickup for both work and play, in the Sierra's case those virtues are distinctly separated. More basic GMC models accentuate the "Professional Grade" tag and the pitch is directed at buyers who rely on their pickups to earn a living.

At the opposite end of the scale is the Sierra Denali sub-brand that places a much higher value on coddling content. In either case, the Sierra's primary identification point can be spotted in your rear-view mirror.

The entire front end, including grille, headlights, bumper and in-your-face GMC logo, are more massive than before and in total make a bolder statement than the Silverado does. Some minor sheet metal differences exist between the Chevy and the GMC, but that's about it.

Even the interiors of the two pickups share the same basic dash, control panel and available touchscreen communications centre that are a masterstroke of efficient legibility.

Of course, as you scale the trim-level ladder, the appointments become more luxurious and the cabin resembles something approaching a high-end limo, especially in the four-door crew-cab models. Improvements in aerodynamics, insulation and weather sealing help shut out intrusive noises.

YUKON — $51,200

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TERRAIN: COMPACT SUV — $29,900
YUKON: FULL-SIZE SUV — $51,200

Just as a greater use of aluminum in fabricating various body panels and suspension parts has kept the Sierra's weight in check, the three new engines also benefit. All use aluminum cylinder blocks and incorporate direct injection, whereby fuel is force fed into the cylinders under high pressure.

There is also continuously variable valve timing for improved low- and high-speed performance, while half the cylinders in V8 engines will automatically shut down in steady-state cruise conditions to save fuel. The V6 engine also runs on four cylinders in such situations.

Although the rest of the GMC lineup largely carries over, there is one special note that concerns the Acadia tall wagon's new centre airbag. While airbags are generally meant to protect occupants from impact with the inside of the vehicle, the new centre airbag protects them from impacts with each other. In the event of a side impact, the centre airbag deploys to keep the front passenger and the driver from colliding. It's an ingenious invention that should prevent many head injuries and save lives. *– Wheelbase Media*

ACADIA — $38,100

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2014 Toyota Highlander

Review. Building on good engines and solid street cred with more style and room

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

PHOTO: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

If you're wondering why minivan sales have been in steady free-fall for the past few years, it's partially because of vehicles such as the Toyota Highlander.

When it arrived for the 2002 model year, the Indiana-built Highlander was one of the initial part-wagon, part-sport utility vehicle models on the market. This so-called "crossover" borrowed its platform and basic running gear from the Toyota Camry, but added available all-wheel-drive and an occasional-use third-row seat to the mix a couple of years later. By then, the Highlander had become one of the most popular Toyotas on the market.

If there was a knock against the Highlander, it was that the vehicle's anonymous styling actually made it difficult to identify, even up close. That has now been rectified with the installation of one of the Toyota family's distinctive trapezoid-style grilles that quite honestly looks better on certain models than others.

That also goes for the cabin that is significantly roomier, thanks to some clever repackaging and a 15-centimetre wider body. That translates into a 9.5-centimetre wider interior, which is enough to provide space for three people for the third row seat in what had previously been a two-person affair. The Highlander now seats up to eight passengers.

Third-row access has been enhanced since the second-row bench (or optional dual high-back bucket seats) offer 7.6 centimetres of fore and aft travel. Both second- and third-row benches are split 60:40 for maximum stowage versatility. However when in full use, the area behind the third row has been enlarged by 34 per cent. Loading the cargo area can be accomplished with either the liftgate raised or with the optional flip-up rear glass raised.

The rest of the interior has been appropriately dressed-up with added soft-touch material covering the instrument panel plus new premium fabrics and faux wood trim on up-level trims. Powertrain options carry over unaltered from 2013 and vary according to need and your desire to minimize fuel consumption. The starting point is a 185-horsepower 2.7-litre four-cylinder, while a 270-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 is optional. Each is connected to a six-speed automatic transmission.

The thriftiest of the bunch is the all-wheel-drive Highlander Hybrid that uses a 231-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 combined with front and rear electric motors to generate 280 combined horsepower. This option, which is mated to a continuously variable transmission, is rated at 6.6 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, compared to 12.6/8.7 for AWD-V6 Highlanders. Toyota continues to maintain a three-trim strategy for the Highlander. Base front-wheel-drive models cover most of basics and include heated side mirrors and dual-zone climate control.

Base V6 versions add a backup camera, power rear liftgate, eight-way power driver's seat and a 15.5-centimetre touchscreen for communications and infotainment services.

The top-level V6 Limited is gussied up with tri-zone climate control, perforated leather-covered seats (heated in front) and an Premium JBL audio system/navigation combo. The Highlander Hybrid can also be had in three trim levels, with prices ranging from $45,000 for the Standard Package, up to $54,000 for the Limited.

Whichever model you choose, the latest Highlander adds more style, comfort and spaciousness, which are features that ultimately lead to a more satisfying experience for drivers and passengers.

Compare

1 Chevrolet Traverse
Base price: $35,000

2 Mitsubishi Outlander
Base price: $27,700

2014 Toyota Highlander

- **Type.** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive, eight-person wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2.7-litre DOHC I4 (185); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (270); 3.5-litre V6 with front and rear electric motors (280)
- **Transmissions.** Six speed auto
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $33,400

Design

The Highlander projects more aggressiveness, but not to the degree that you would confuse if for an off-road-oriented 4Runner or king-size Sequoia wagon. The rest of the body from the hood to the liftgate is more shapely and correctly conveys the sense that the Highlander is a quality piece of work.

Fuel economy

At 10.4 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, the front-wheel-drive-only four-cylinder has lower fuel consumption than the all-wheel-drive V6 and allows Toyota to peg the base price at $33,400, including destination charges.

DRIVE

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less. †Toyota semi-monthly lease program available on 48 month and 60 month terms. Toyota semi-monthly lease program based on 24 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 120 payments per year, with the final 120th payment waived by Toyota Financial Services. Competitive bi-weekly lease programs based on 26 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 130 payments per year.

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Equus Bass 770 allows fans to dream

The body of the Equus Automotive pays homage to the old Ford Mustang Fastback . EQUUS AUTOMOTIVE

$250K US price tag. Anonymous passionate millionaire built 100 of these gems and the aesthetically pleasing model surprised many at the Detroit Auto Show

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

By the time Equus Automotive took the stage at the 2014 auto show in Detroit, the press crowd had thinned out appreciably. Getting slot number 32 on a two-day press conference schedule will do that to anyone, especially to an automaker hardly anyone has ever heard of before.

But Equus Automotive managed to make a bit of a buzz at Detroit by the best way possible — by introducing an exciting automobile, and one from left field so to speak.

The Equus Bass 770 was touted as the quintessential American Luxury GT. Its overall shape pays obvious homage to the Ford Mustang Fastback, circa 1969, while the front grille and headlight design seems to channel the vibe of the Plymouth GTX or Plymouth Roadrunner, circa 1971.

It has a 640-hp V8 from General Motors, and lots of aluminum construction to keep the weight down. Not surprisingly, it accelerates real good and tops-out at over 200 mph (321 km/hr). If you want a totally modern car under a body inspired by the golden age of American pony cars, this is your ride — as long as you can plunk down the US$250,000 asking price.

The interior of this dream car is a beautiful blend of classic and modern.

The 25 employees at the Equus factory in Rochester Hills, Michigan, can build about 100 cars a year. So far 20 orders have been placed, all from overseas customers.

Race driver Ian James is the spokesman and ambassador for Equus; he noted the company is owned and bankrolled by a European businessman who has a passion for classic muscle cars but wishes to remain behind the scenes.

I find it fascinating how these wealthy "car guys" keep doing this — imagining their perfect ride and then setting up a company to build a small number of them. Why don't they just build one from scratch for themselves and forget about all these tooling and development costs?

I guess having a custom-built car is one thing, but having it come to life via a genuine car company, and then have other people confirm your aesthetic by buying some examples, is a level or two better on whatever scale they operate on.

It can't be for business reasons. History has shown that when relatively small companies tool up to build limited-production high-end cars, things tend to go real-bad real-fast in the accounting department. They're up against very high production and design costs, a very limited and fickle market, and not much room for error.

You only had to look at the Detroit press conference held immediately before the Equus event. Henry Fisker's dream to build the Fisker Karma plug-in hybrid went bankrupt this year. VL Automotive, co-founded by industry veteran Bob Lutz, is taking those beautiful but suddenly not-worth-so-much Karma bodies and reformulating them with Corvette V8 engines — basically the same engines in the Equus Bass 770.

But you gotta love guys like Henry Fisker, Malcolm Brickland, Giotto Bizzarini, Alejandro de Tomaso, etc., as well as that unnamed guy behind the Equus Bass 770. They all brought, or bring, passion, interesting stuff, and colour to the automotive landscape.

AGM units has the battery power X-Factor

Driving Force.
Absorbed glass mat batteries deliver a quicker and more reliable charge for electrically heavy cars

JIL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

A good battery can make the difference between getting to work on a cold morning, or sitting in your driveway waiting for a boost. A technology called absorbed glass mat, or AGM, can help improve its performance. That's an important consideration, since the battery does more than just start your car.

"The charging system can't keep up with all the demands that you place on the vehicle," says Sergio Marsili, senior buyer for automotive batteries at Canadian Tire. "You have the heater, the air conditioning, the heated seats, headlights, the radio. Some cars have as many as fifty computers in them that need to be powered.

"On an older car, you could jump-start your battery and drive for a few hours, because there were very few electronics in the car. Today, if you have a broken battery, jump-starting it might get you started, but two minutes down the road it may stall again, because it needs that power from the battery."

Car batteries make electricity through a chemical reaction between electrodes, usually made of lead, and a liquid electrolyte, usually sulphuric acid—which is why they're called lead-acid batteries.

In an AGM battery, there's a fiberglass mat between the electrodes, which holds the electrolyte like a sponge. "There's no free-flowing liquid, so nothing leaks out or is sloshing around in there, and the electrolyte is suspended in these glass mats under very tight compression," Marsili says. "The benefit is that the battery charges faster, even in cold temperatures, and it's always at a higher state of charge than a regular battery might be."

Most car batteries provide a lot of power in a short burst when starting, and then they recharge. They're not designed for deep discharges, such as when you leave your headlights on or run electronic features with the engine off, but AGM batteries can better tolerate it. Because they're tightly packed inside, they're also less likely to be affected by vibration, such as if you drive a lot on rough roads.

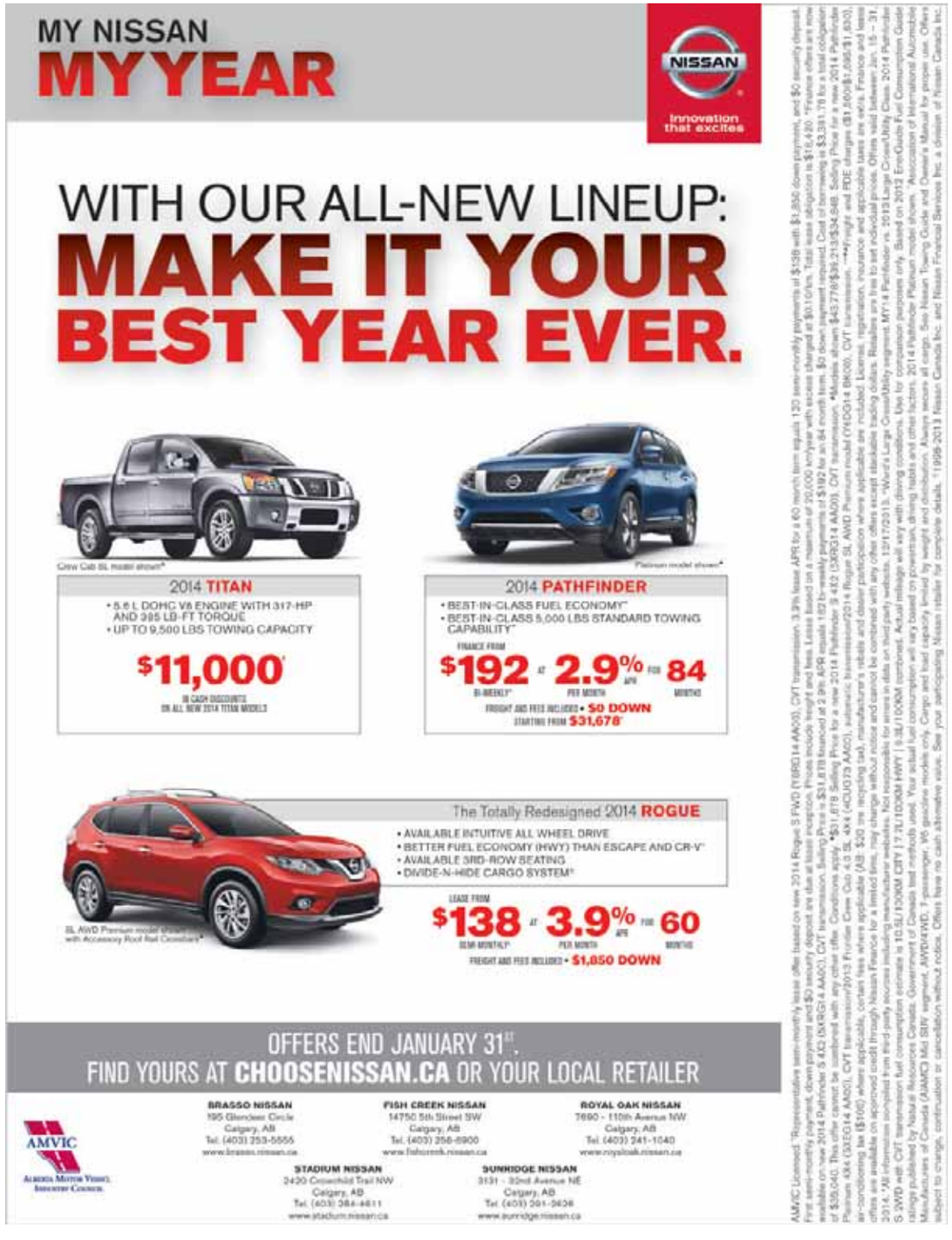
Once a battery's about three years old, it should be checked by a technician before each winter. "About one-third of customers replace their batteries proactively, while the other two-thirds wait for it to fail," Marsili says. "There's nothing more frustrating than a dead battery."

To note

- **Maintenance.** The charging system doesn't run all the time on many new vehicles, to improve fuel efficiency, so a well-maintained battery is even more important.
- **Check up checklist.** A battery inspection should include checking the cables and cleaning any corrosion off the terminals.
- **Remember.** Constant short trips are hard on your battery, because it doesn't have a chance to fully charge.

AGM or Absorbed Glass Mat batteries charge faster and are more reliable.

AGM batteries help electronically-heavy cars manage better. BOTH CANADIAN TIRE



Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

More McQueen

For many people, actor/racer Steve McQueen has yet to be topped as the coolest cat who ever lit up the screen. And that includes Sean Connery, Paul Newman, James Garner and any of the current crop of heartthrobs. Sonic Editions, a company that specializes in all kinds of classic images, offers limited-edition Steve McQueen photographs from the Michael Ochs Archives in Los Angeles, Calif. Ochs took most of the pictures back in 1971 when McQueen was directing and starring in his racing movie entitled "Le Mans".

Each of the prints is produced on high-grade Fujicolor Crystal Archive paper and comes professionally framed. Order your McQueen copy starting at $120 US for an 11- x 14-inch print (up to $380 US for the 24- x 30-inch version) from soniceditions.com.

Jeeps for tots

It seems as though Chrysler's Jeep division is out to reel in prospective buyers almost as soon as they're born, or at least convince their parents to get one. Among Jeep World's wide range of accessories is its line of baby strollers, including this neat three-wheel Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller. It features the kind of accessories you would find or appreciate on an actual Jeep, including a shock-absorber suspension, multi-position reclining seat, height-adjustable steering handles, cup holders, stowage basket and five-point safety harness. Also included is what's called an iBaby sound system for connecting your portable audio device. The Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller rolls on 26-centimetre pneumatic tires and has a 27-kilogram capacity. Buy one for $250 US from jeepworld.com.

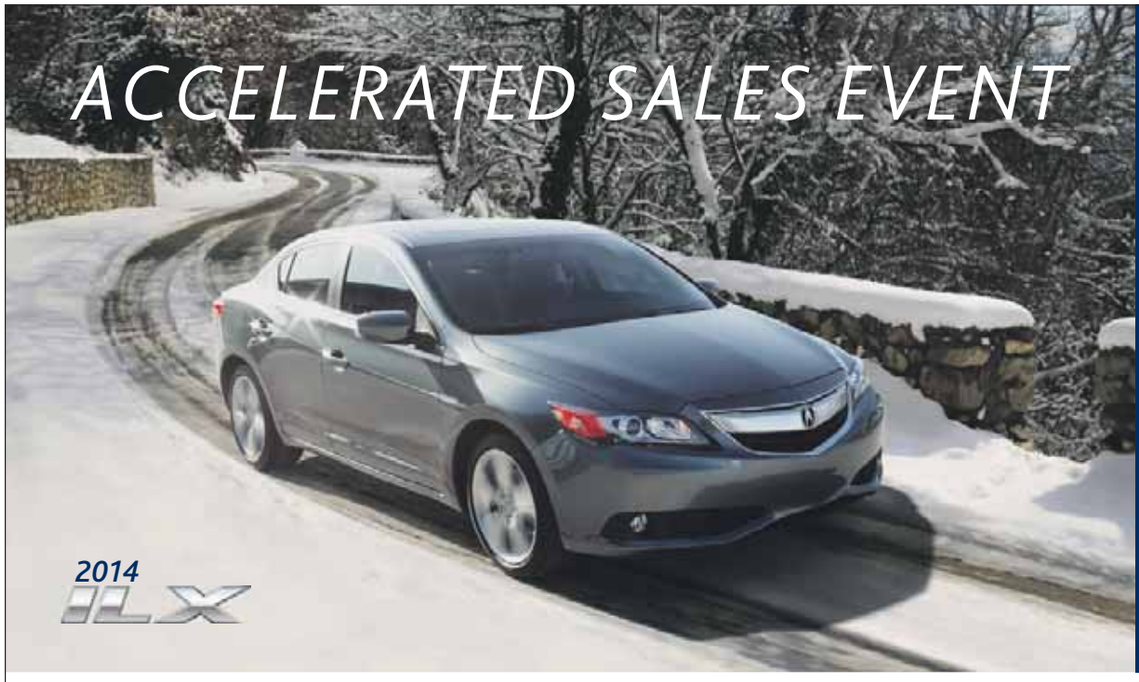
Bueller's movie house

For die-hard fans of Ferris Bueller's Day Off, this would make the ultimate piece of movie memorabilia. Up for sale is the home where, in the 1986 film, Ferris's pal Cameron lived. As you might recall, it's also where Cameron's father parked his 1961 Ferrari 250 GT California Spyder. The red roadster (in reality, a Ford-V8-powered replica) figured prominently in the film and, near its conclusion, it ended up in a ravine after Cameron pushed the car — which was up on jack with the wheels spinning — backward through one of the garage's plate-glass windows. Actually, the four-bedroom Highland Park, Ill., (a Chicago suburb) house has been on the market for some time for $1.65 million US. The asking price has recently dropped

to a more affordable $1.5 million US (not including the Ferrari). You can check it out the full listing at redfin.com.

Stay safe with SOL

The SOL Origin proves that you don't need to carry big and cumbersome basic survival accessories in your car in the event that the unexpected occurs. This almost pocket-sized waterproof kit stores easily and contains a number of life-protecting essentials. You'll get a combination knife/flashlight/emergency whistle, a built-in removable compass, a signaling mirror, a foolproof fire starter with tinder, a fishing line with hooks, safety wire and a sewing kit. Also included is a written summary of life-saving advice and tips (not wandering off when your car becomes stuck in bad weather, for example). The Sol Origin is priced at US $40 and is available at surviveoutdoorslonger.com.



$168* BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | 1.9%* 48-MONTH LEASE

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ACURA
acura.ca/calgary

Selling price is $30,111 on a new 2014 Acura ILX (Model DE1F3EJ). Selling price includes $1,995 freight and PDI, excise tax ($100), new tire surcharge ($20) and AMVIC fee ($6.25). License, insurance, registration and taxes (including GST) are extra. *Limited time lease offer based on a new 2014 Acura ILX (Model DE1F3EJ) available through Acura Financial Services, on approved credit. Representative lease example: 1.9% lease rate for 48 months. Bi-weekly payment is $168 (includes $1,995 freight and PDI) with $0 down payment. 20,000 km allowance/year; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is $17,472. Offer includes excise tax ($100), new tire surcharge ($20), AMVIC fee ($6.25), PPSA ($13) and delivery credit ($870 to retailer). License, insurance, registration, options and applicable fees, duties and taxes are extra (including GST). †$1,500 cash purchase incentive available on select new 2014 Acura ILX models (Models DE1F5EJN, DE2E7EKN, DE1F7EKN, DE3F7EKN) and will be deducted from the negotiated selling price of the vehicle before taxes. Cash purchase incentive cannot be combined with lease, finance or other offers. Some terms/conditions apply. Model shown for illustration purposes only. Offers end January 31, 2014, are subject to change or cancellation without notice and are only valid for Alberta residents at Alberta Acura retailers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. See your Calgary Acura retailer for full details.

AMVIC LICENSEES

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may dream of starting from scratch some place new but deep down you know it isn't going to happen. Focus on making the best of where you are and what you have got.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be determined to discover the truth about something you believe others have been covering up but don't start reading fanciful stuff into situations that are really quite normal.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A friendship that has been on a downward spiral will pick up again as from today. You will have to accept that in certain areas you are and always will have different points of view.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What you say and do now will determine the level of material and professional success you will enjoy over the next few months. Don't say and do what you think will please those in positions of power. Please yourself first.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Your aims may seem impractical to some but so what? The approaching new moon will give you a head start on your rivals and no matter how far behind you may be, you will soon be ahead of the pack.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't fret about how much something is going to cost you. If it is really what you want to be doing then just get on and do it and worry about the financial considerations later.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Romantic relationships are well starred today. Let the object of your affection know that they are, always have been, and always will be number one in your heart. If you do, the next few days will be extra special.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If your daily routine is too demanding, maybe it's time you did something about it. However, because the changes you make this week are likely to become permanent, make sure you really want them.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why are you not getting what you want out of life? If you are honest, you will admit it is because you are spending too much time on things of minor importance. Use your talents!

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Help loved ones feel as good about themselves as you feel about yourself. That may be no easy task but it must be done because happiness at home is essential to other things.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The things you think about today are the things you will be doing tomorrow and the day after that, no matter how outrageous some of your thoughts may be!

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Listen to advice and don't be afraid to act on what you hear. Not everyone is trying to trick you or steal from you, so play down your suspicions and play up to the kind of important people who can help you.

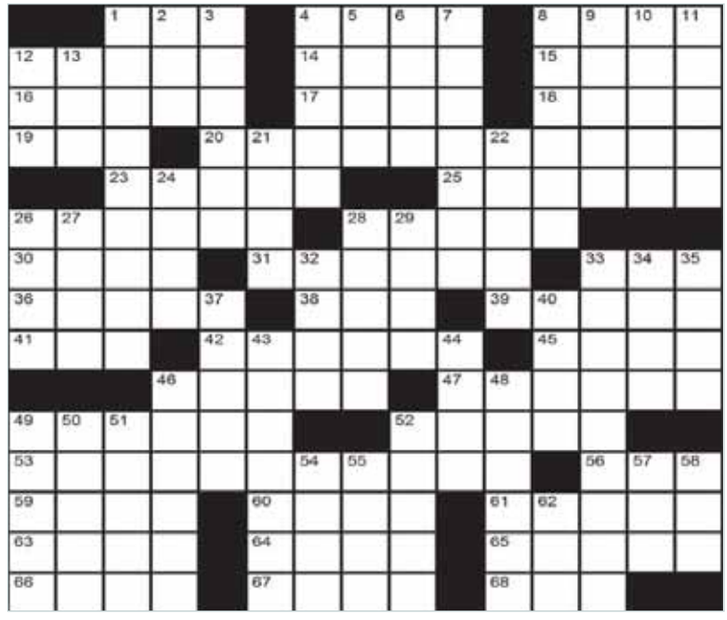
SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

The last four clues were omitted from yesterday's puzzle. We apologize for the inconvenience. Visit metronews.ca/missingclues.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

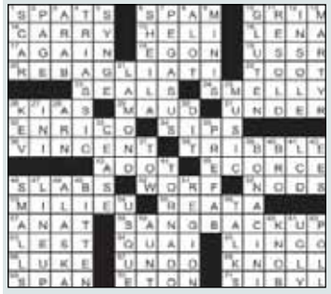
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Chitchat
4. Magician's prop
8. "Shoot!"
12. Nickname of Prince Charles' first bride: 2 wds.
14. Wing-shaped
15. "__ Beach" by Martha & The Muffins
16. Trunk
17. Doubled Doris Day song word
18. Transport by ocean
19. Whistle blower?
20. Ottawa-born star-of-the-slopes/ Olympian: 2 wds.
23. Top-tiered star's spot
25. Health care professionals
26. Turn the key and open
28. Bobby Hull's son
30. Get ready for the trip
31. Detective
33. Shortened home
36. Unflappable
38. Legendary boxing surname
39. Area near Montreal, The South __
41. Languish
42. Former Canadian department store
45. Not much, just _.__
46. Fashion retailer Michelle Obama likes, _.__
47. Charge in the court
49. Quebec Premier, Pauline __
52. Embellishments-less
53. Rural-esque region of Winnipeg
56. Enshrouded
59. Emptiness
60. Ms. Peeples' bird which is NWT's official bird
61. Figure of speech
63. Rick's movie beloved
64. Eye part
65. Peter of Herman's Hermits
66. Religious realm
67. Mention
68. Mr. Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"

Down
1. Arctic hunting others
2. Dates not as ancient as BCs
3. It describes Jaime Sommers
4. "Hmmm, I __ aware of that."
5. Baldwin brother
6. Not
7. 1987 movie in which Dan Aykroyd starred as classic TV character Sgt. Joe Friday
8. Sahara __
9. Throbs
10. Big river in Europe
11. Slangy negatives
12. Geography abbr.
13. Cultivate
21. Questions
22. Ms. Buzzi of "Laugh-In", and
24. Tricky Norse deity
26. __-daisy
27. Mr. Berkus, Oprah protege
28. Bruce Greenwood film, "Eight __" (2006)
29. Total
32. Tardy
33. Movie with a big Bryan Adams hit, "__ __: Prince of Thieves" (1991)
34. Country's Mr. Church
35. Paving†stone
37. Mr. B. DeMille
40. "Well, __ _ known that..." (Things would be different now if...)
43. Particular poison
44. Barn's pal
46. Musician Marc
48. Chuck Berry title song lady
49. Christine of Fleetwood Mac
50. '60s tune: "You Really Got _ __ on Me"
51. Lift
52. Western movie search party
54. iPhone's voice-activated helper
55. Serve at the restaurant
57. Highway 'home'
58. Tint
62. Mr. Stewart

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		9		4		1	
7								8
		5		7		4		
	7	3		4		1	2	
	6			5			3	
	1	4		9		6	8	
		7		8		2		
6								3
	2		1		7		5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	5	2	3	7	9	8	4
7	4	3	1	8	9	2	5	6
9	8	2	4	6	5	3	1	7
5	2	4	7	1	3	6	9	8
6	9	1	8	5	2	7	4	3
3	7	8	6	9	4	5	2	1
2	3	6	5	4	8	1	7	9
4	5	9	3	7	1	8	6	2
8	1	7	9	2	6	4	3	5

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -8° MIN: -8°	MAX: -15° MIN: -17°	MAX: -5° MIN: -14°

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GLS model shown

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OR GET **0%†** FINANCING FOR UP TO 72 MONTHS ON OTHER ACCENT 5 DR MODELS

5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

2013 ELANTRA L

Limited model shown

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OR GET **0%†** FINANCING FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS ON OTHER ELANTRA SEDAN MODELS

5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

SAY HELLO TO THE 2014's

2014 TUCSON GL

Limited model shown

OWN IT FOR **$119** BI-WEEKLY
AT **1.9%†** FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $250 DOWN PAYMENT
SELLING PRICE: **$23,259♦** 2014 TUCSON 2.0L GL FWD MT. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.
5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

2014 SANTA FE SPORT

Limited model shown

OWN IT FOR **$139** BI-WEEKLY
AT **1.9%†** FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $1,500 DOWN PAYMENT
SELLING PRICE: **$28,359♦** 2014 SANTA FE 2.4L FWD. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.
5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Accent 5 Door GL 6-Speed Manual/2013 Elantra GL 6-Speed Manual/2014 Tucson 2.0L GL FWD MT/2014 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/1.9% 1.9% for 72/84/96/96 months. Bi-weekly payments are $113/$111/$119/$139. $0/$0/$250/$1,500 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$1,811/$2,114. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,550/$1,550/$1,760/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2014 Tucson 2.0L GL FWD MT for $23,259 at 1.9% per annum equals $119 bi-weekly for 96 months for a total obligation of $25,070. $250 down payment required. Cash price is $23,259. Cost of Borrowing is $1,811. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. ♦Price of models shown: 2013 Accent 5 Door GLS 6-Speed Manual/2013 Elantra Limited/2014 Tucson 2.4L Limited AWD/2014 Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD are $19,249/$24,849/$35,359/$40,659. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,550/$1,550/ $1,760/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. ◊Price adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $3,340/$4,540 available on 2013 Accent 5 Door L 6-Speed Manual/2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual (on cash purchases only). Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †◊♦Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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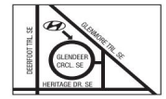

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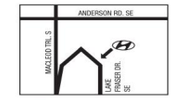
CROWFOOT HYUNDAI
710 Crowfoot Crescent NW,
403-374-3374



THE HYUNDAI GALLERY
11770 Lake Fraser Dr. S.E., Calgary
403-225-6512

COUNTRY HILLS HYUNDAI
2307 Country Hills Blvd. NE, Calgary
403-984-9696